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NIAGARA
COMMUNICATIO NEWS INFORMATIO

NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

Volume 24, No. 16 FREE Friday, April 22, 1994

We're in the money — $32 million

By WILLY NOILES
Staff Writer

Ontario Premier Bob Rae hand-delivered good news to Niagara College in the form of $32 million on April 8.

The province will be investing $32 million over the next three years into college facilities in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Welland.

This investment is being made to "help Niagara College ensure that its programs and facilities are appropriate to meet the future needs of the people and employers of the Niagara Region," Rae said at a press conference held at the White Oaks Inn in Niagara-on-the-Lake, near the new campus location.

Of the $32 million, $22 million is for the construction of a new campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, while $10 million is for changes at the Welland campus.

The new campus is expected to house health sciences, business, environmental and horticultural programs.

"We're doing something for the short term, for the medium term, but above all, we're building for the long term," said Rae.

"I'm sure I can sum up the feelings of our boards and my Niagara College colleagues today in just one word - *YES!*," said Niagara College President John Saso.

The new campus, at the south-east corner of Glendale Avenue and Taylor Road just off the QEW, is expected to be between 190,000 and 225,000 square feet. Opening is scheduled for 1997.

Construction could begin as early as this fall, said Saso. The entire project is expected to be completed by December 1997.

This project is expected to provide 320 person years of work over the next three years and create at least 60 permanent full-time jobs as student enrolment increases.

Rae said the province's social contract and tuition fees have helped make this investment possible.

"The social contract, which has no great fans among many of the college teachers and staff, has made it possible for us to save money on the operating side of government and allowed us to invest in critical projects.

"The second group of people making it possible are students," the premier said, adding the tuition rates in Ontario "are very comparable to what's being asked of students in other parts of the country."

To students who are upset over tuition hikes, Rae said this "willingness to make this kind of commitment is what allows us...to maintain our commitment on the capital side...and operating side."

It is expected the sale of the Wellandvale campus and savings from buildings currently leased by the college will generate funds to pay for the equipment, furniture, and other related expenses needed for the new campus.

At the Welland campus, the Black Walnut, Mackenzie, and Hennepin Hall buildings will be replaced with a "state of the art classroom and library facilities" that will become the front entrance of the college, said Saso.

"The problem with the Welland campus is it has no front entrance. I've been here three years and I'm still trying to get into the front entrance," he said.

In the spot where Hennepin Hall stands, a new building will house a recreation centre and administration offices with a community-based feel, said Saso.

The new campus and renovations are part of the college's Master Plan. The plan was developed in early 1991 to ensure that college facilities, programs, and services meet the needs of the students, employers, and people of the Niagara Region.

"There are programs...courses...and skills that are being provided here that can't be provided in any other college in the system. There's an expertise that's here that we want to maintain and to make grow and sustain," said Rae.

Premier Bob Rae and Niagara College President John Saso announce a $32-million grant at an April 18 press conference.
Photo by Willy Noiles

Casino Night set for May 6

By JOHN SAVOIE
Staff Writer

Are you a gambler?

If so, you are welcome to join Niagara College's first annual Casino Night.

Niagara College Business-Sales students have organized a night of games, food and refreshments.

Casino Night is being held at The Rose Villa Tavern, 154 Riverside Dr., Welland on Friday, May 6. Doors open at 7 p.m. and will remain open until 1 a.m.

Using your winnings, you will be able to bid on a wide assortment of prizes.

Tickets can be purchased from Rena Posteraro in room ME104A at the Welland campus or through Joe Bonazza at (905) 734-4808.

Tickets cost $5.

Shuart wins vice-president race

By SUE NOBLE
and WILLY NOILES
Staff Writers

The results are in.

In Tuesday's Student Administrative Council (SAC) election for Vice-President Social, Linda Shuart, 31, of Welland, was triumphant over incumbent Trevor Obee, 21, with a final tally of 114 to 97.

Tuesday's election turnout was the "most ever," said Scott Currie, Vice-President Athletic.

Shuart, a first-year Human Relations student, still hasn't caught her breath. "It hasn't even sunk in yet," she said.

"I don't see enough activities for students who don't drink," said Shuart. More activities available for students is the platform she ran on.

'I don't see enough activities for students who don't drink' - Shuart

Obee, a first-year Journalism-Print student, said reasons for his loss included not enough time to concentrate on his campaign, and what he feels became a "popularity contest."

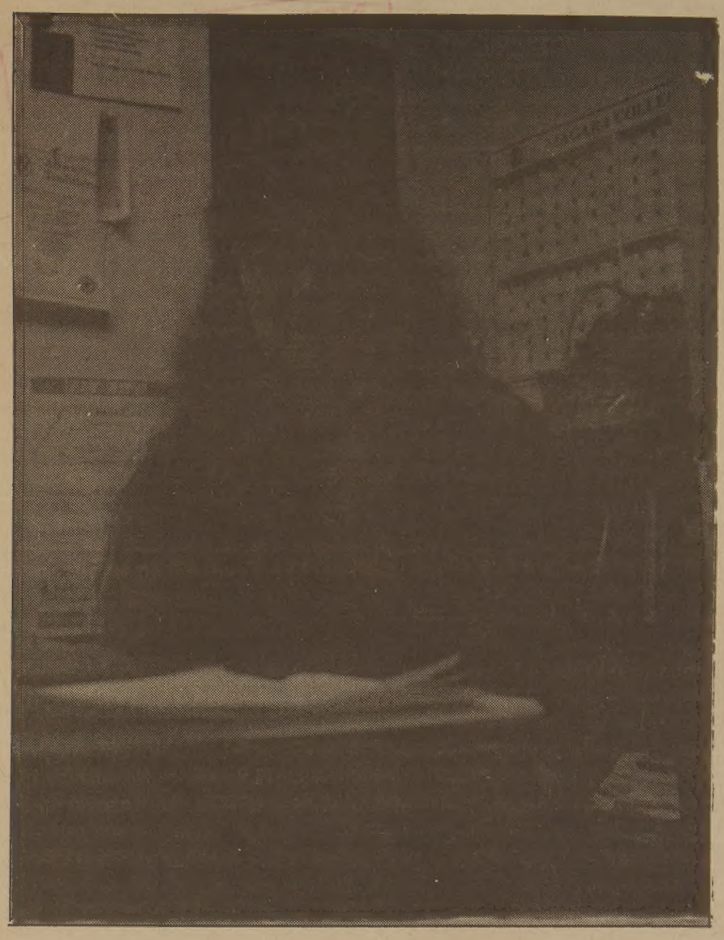
The last election Obee ran in there were three candidates, but this time, he said, the vote came down to one or the other. "It got to be more of a popularity contest this time."

Obee said he spent far too much time taking care of SAC responsibilities so that he wasn't able to fully focus on his campaign.

As to his future plans, Obee said he'll be devoting more time to his studies, and being "watchdog" over the next SAC. "I think I've set a precedent and the next person will have pretty big shoes to fill."

"I'll be back," Obee said.

Niagara to offer new aboriginal studies



Bonnie Winskel is the aboriginal education access manager.
Photo by Gordon Hill

By GORDON HILL
Staff Writer

Niagara College will include aboriginal studies in its fall courses, says Bonnie Winskel, the college's aboriginal education access manager.

When given the task of creating a course on native culture, Winskel consulted with Walter Watson, a doctor of philosophy, and Tony Sylvester, a master of arts, who were hired as curriculum designers.

Two Row Programs as it is called, consist of three separate components. They are:

Walking Two Paths is a native transition course providing students with a better understanding of the Euro-Canadian and aboriginal relationship through the Two Row Wampum, and developing supportive relationships.

Advanced Workshops In Intercultural Communication is a program for social service providers whose work requires inter-action with the native community, For example, law enforcement, social services and education.

First Nations And Canadian Society Workshops are designed to familiarize students with aboriginal education methods and celebrate Canada's bilateral existence.

These programs "are really unique because they are not based on traditional European methods of delivery," said Winskel. Instead, they are "based on traditional native educational forms of delivery, especially in the recording of events," through the creation of Wampum, she said.

Wampum is the recording of events for posterity in the form of animal sinew and leather, with rare abalone sea shells formed in the shape of a rectangular bead.

"The Aboriginal Education Management Circle oversaw and approved the Two Row Wampum program," Winskel said.

The Circle consists of representatives from aboriginal organizations in the Niagara Peninsula, including the Six Nations at Grand River.

The League of Six Nations negotiated the Treaty of Ghent with the British in 1614. This Treaty is known as the Two Row Wampum to native culture, and from this the program takes its name.

Winskel attended E.L. Crossley High School in Fonthill and Brock University, in St. Catharines. At Brock, she specialized in research design, and was a teaching assistant for six years. In her last year at university she received an honors degree in research design.

A published author, Winskel wrote two books: Partnerships and Trails. The first book, Partnerships, was the result of research she compiled on 14,000 social service recipients, for Employment and Immigration Canada. The second book, Trails, detailed educational and training needs for natives.

She has the distinction of being the first native education counsellor in the Niagara Peninsula. In that capacity, she brought "awareness of the cultural differences between natives and non-natives, and created staff sensitivity training with one-on-one counselling for kids and their families," Winskel said.

Winskel sits on the race relations board for the Niagara South Board of Education. She is the chairwoman of the Aboriginal Education Council at Brock University and a member of the Ontario Native Women's Association.

As a member of the Ontario Native Education Counsellors Association, she helps set educational policy for the province.

In her past association with Niagara College, Winskel has worked with co-op Career Services as an employment counsellor and taught sociology at night.

Winskel, an Anishnaube from Manitoulin Island, is at the Seventh Fire office at Niagara, and extends an invitation to students and faculty for any assistance she can provide on native issues and programs. Her office is located in the Simcoe building, Room 102B.

She said about her collaboration with the college: "It has been a very lucrative partnership for both Niagara College and aboriginal (people)."

Library to get automated system

By ELIZABETH MONSERE
Staff Writer

The Niagara College library is in the middle of preparing materials for a new computer automation system, which will be offered for students next fall.

Trish Labonte, Niagara College head librarian, has been putting money aside for the past three years in order to accumulate enough funding for the project.

The automated system will consist of 30 units distributed throughout all five college libraries. However, she said not all computers will be open for the public to use, some will be used for circulation and data input into the system.

While Labonte has been securing funding and working with systems vendors, Sandy Brooks, Niagara College library technician, has been in charge of preparing for the new system.

Labonte said this is described as a "massive job" as each one of the 20,000 items in the Niagara College collection must be identified by a bar code, which matches it to several unique database numbers.

'This is something we've wanted . . . for a long time' — Labonte

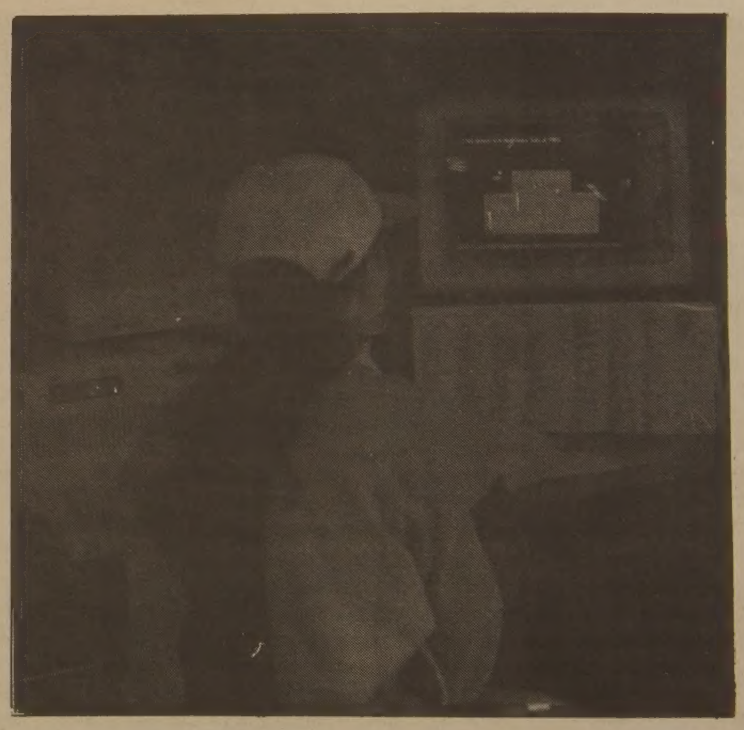
For the past several summers, Brooks has been working with the College Bibliocentre in Toronto, a central cataloging agency to develop a database, which can be transferred to the college as soon as the new system is installed.

Public libraries receive provincial government grants for automation.

The college library must complete this task with no new staff or funds, said Labonte.

Brooks is testing procedures and writing guidelines to assist Library Resource Centre teams, who will be matching database, inventory and bar code labels most of the summer.

"This is something we've wanted to provide students for a long time and it's finally becoming a reality," says Labonte.



A student works on one of the Learning Resource Centre's computers at the Welland campus.
Photo by Brent Laderoute

Libraries to *open this* summer

By ELIZABETH MONSERE
Staff Writer

Attention Niagara College students.

For the first time, three libraries will be open at three different campuses of Niagara College.

The Welland campus, Mack Nursing campus and the St. Catharines campus will have libraries open for two months this summer.

Trish Labonte, head librarian, says she would like to encourage students "to make good use of the library" so they will stay open in future summers.

The libraries will be open Monday through Thursday, 12 hours a day.

Labonte says teachers are "pushing so much material during the day" that the library should be open to accommodate students doing research work.

The students who may benefit the most are international students, who are "heavy users of the library," says Labonte.

The libraries will provide services for Continuing Education students, who come one or two nights a week.

Ryerson University in Toronto has requested the libraries be open to assist their students.

"The college is becoming a fast-track place all year around, which requires the library to also be open to assist all students," says Labonte.

Five colleges to offer 24 new business courses

By JOHN SAVOIE
Staff Writer

A series of 24 new courses are being offered to Niagara College students preparing them in business leadership for front-line managerial jobs.

Four colleges, including Niagara College, have teamed up with corporate co-sponsors General Motors and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to teach leadership skills to business students.

Students will receive a business leadership certificate for successfully completing the first year and a diploma for graduates of the full two-year program.

Niagara College well known in Middle East

By GORDANA PIRKER
Staff Writer

Niagara College is making its mark in the Middle East.

Niagara, with the United Arab Emirates, is working on a program scheduled for this fall.

Dennis Malone, director of international students at Niagara, is spearheading the agreement.

Since 1990 when the college first started attracting international students, Niagara has received recognition worldwide.

Niagara College and the Ras Al Khaimah Hotel joined hands in offering courses in hotel and restaurant training.

These courses are internationally recognized and accredited in the hospitality industry, said Malone.

David Davies, director of the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls, is in charge of working with engineers in United Arab Emirates to organize classrooms and make other needed arrangements.

Recently, Niagara and Brock University in St. Catharines started a new project, a four-year Human Resource Development program with Burapha University in Bang Saphan Yai, Thailand. The program deals with environmental waste-management and other related projects.

Most of the projects, however, are funded by the Canadian International Development Association (CIDA), a branch of the federal External Affairs department in Ottawa.

The Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), a non-government organization, approached Malone with the proposal in the United Arab Emirates.

"The vice-president with the organization called me and asked if I was interested in recruiting students in the United Arab Emirates," said Malone.

After spending 10 days in the country, Malone returned to Welland and prepared a bid for the proposal. Niagara was competing against other colleges in the world, he said.

Niagara was the top college selected. The next move is to propose a budget for final submission.

"Our chances look good. We have a solid proposal," said Malone. The selection will take place in May.

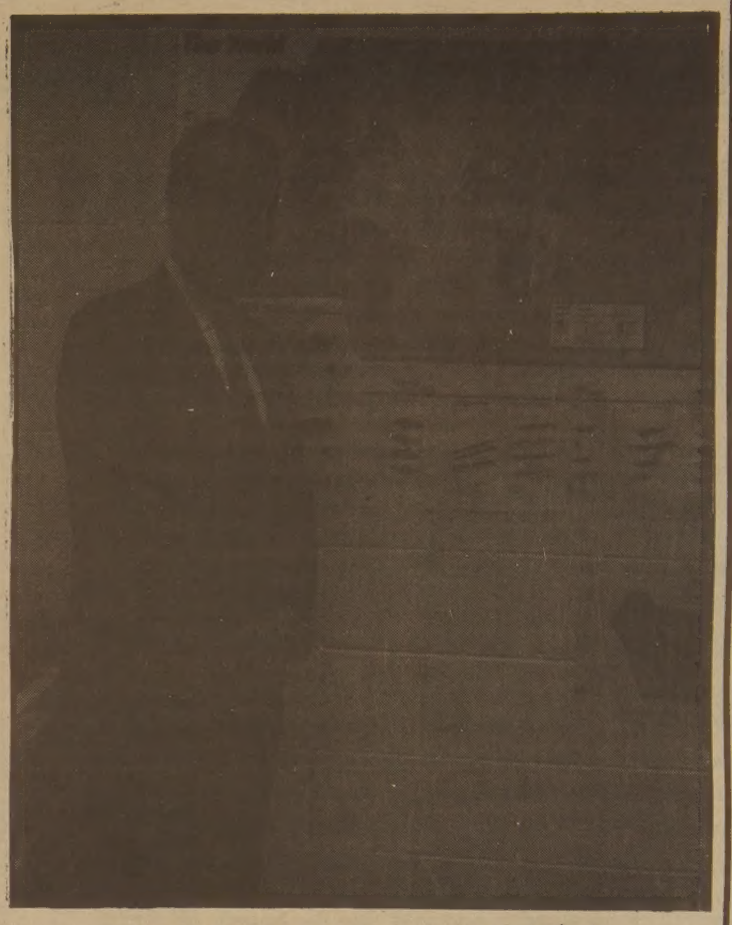
Asked what the college will benefit from this agreement, Malone said Niagara will make a definite profit because it is a privately-funded program.

If Niagara is chosen, the college will send five teachers, including a program co-ordinator.

Malone said the college will benefit from immediate cash flow in the first year. "We are hoping that with this agreement and with others, we can generate an increase in the enrolment (of international students) at Niagara."

Malone said his target is to increase enrolment of international students by five to seven per cent.

"Not only is this agreement a financial boost, but it also gives our faculty an opportunity to work overseas," he said. "It also raises our college's profile."



Dennis Malone is the director of international students.
Photo by Gordana Pirker

A final decision will be made June 2. If all is ready to go, building renovations at Ras Al Khaimah Hotel will take place Aug. 6, and classes in the United Arab Emirates will begin Sept. 3.

Meanwhile, Malone and John Saso, president of Niagara College, will travel to China on Sept. 15 to formally close a three-year project at Yueyang Vocational University in China.

The CIDA funded this program, and Malone said the Chinese government, both municipal and federal, have shown interest in keeping the program.

Students compete for brochure

ADRIANNE BEDARD
Staff Writer

The first-year students in the Visual Arts and Design program are getting the chance to put their skills to a practical test.

Students in the Photomechanical Applications and Computer Applications class are competing in a contest to design a brochure for the Welland Historical Museum. The designs are entirely up to the individual student and are to include photographs of both the interior and exterior of the museum.

Professor John Thompson said this was the first time such a contest has been run with the first-year students.

'We don't generally do that in order not to infringe on the public sector . . .'

"They (The Welland Historical Museum) approached us with the idea of having a brochure made up for the museum," said Thompson. "We don't generally do that in order not to infringe on the public sector, but since it's a charitable institution the situation was different."

Thompson said second-year students have designed brochures and letterheads for the Labour Council of St. Catharines and to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Welland Public Library.

The winner's design will be used in the brochure for the Welland Historical Museum.

"This is a good chance for students to get published work to use in their portfolios," said Thompson.

Sixth annual Seafood and WineExtravaganza sold out

By DEANNA FERBRACHE
Staff Writer

If you like the sound of being pampered by an array of food delicacies, Niagara wines, and fine entertainment, then here's an event that will surely whet your appetite.

Carole Landery, co-ordinator for the sixth annual Niagara College Great Canadian Wine and Seafood Extravaganza, says she is enthusiastic about this year's reception.

"A lot of the preliminary work is done in the fall. When March comes around we're racing to pull it all together," Landery said.

The extravaganza, to be held Friday, April 22 at the Victoria Park Restaurant in Niagara Falls, is sold out.

"It's getting bigger and bigger just by word of mouth," Landery said. "We've already sold 320 tickets, and there are currently 80 people on a waiting list."

The proceeds from each ticket sold, costing $75 a person, go towards the foundation, and is then turned over to Niagara College to benefit school programs.

"We like to think of it more as a friendraiser than a fundraiser," Landery said. "It's a good way for people to get to know one another in a casual setting."

For those who like to "dance the night away," there's also a broad entertainment line-up featuring Bill Stevens' Dixie Land Band. All raffle prizes for the dinner are donated, including an all expense paid trip for four to see a Toronto Blue Jays game, with free limo service, and two rooms at the Skydome.

John Saso, Niagara College president, has also donated his time to prepare a dinner for up to eight people in the home of the lucky winner of that particular draw.

The event will kick off at 6 p.m. with a wine reception, consisting of donated vintage offerings from 15 of Niagara's wineries. Dinner follows at 7 p.m.

For the most choosiest palate, the evening's menu will consist of cold dishes like oyster's on a half-shell, marinated mushrooms, and creamy coleslaw. Dinner will have a variety of seafood such as mussels, broiled scampi, and snowcrab legs.

No meal would be complete without dessert. This year, all pasteries will be made by the chef professors and students from the Hospitality and Tourism Centre of Niagara College.

Although the registration deadline for this year's extravaganza is over, anyone interested in attending next year's banquet should reserve tickets in early March 1995. For more information call the Niagara College Foundation, P.O. Box 20162, Grantham Postal Outlet, St. Catharines Ont. L2M-7W7 (905) 988-5211

Niagara College Food Bank opens for second year

By GORDANA PIRKER
Staff Writer

Niagara College's food bank remains open for students in need of extra help.

It is the second year the food bank has been open.

"Because of recent changes in the Ontario Student Loan Program (OSAP) delays, students found themselves short in terms of spending money," said Brigitte Chiki, co-ordinator of the college's counselling and health services.

Pam Fowler, 20, a General Arts and Science student, found herself in financial difficulty. She is pregnant.

Fowler's only source of income was OSAP and scholorship funds. But she said she was "quickly running out of money."

After learning she had become pregnant, Fowler said she never understood the problems she would come across when many of the doors she depended on were not opening.

With $525 needed a month for rent, Fowler survived until the middle of January. After that, she tried to get help from other sources.

"I tried welfare, but they said I did not qualify to receive two government incomes. I cried for days," she said.

Asked if her boyfriend has taken any responsibilty, Fowler said, "if it wasn't for him and his family, I would be on the streets."

Fowler said even though she was pregnant she wanted to be independent.

"The college has been great. I have been at the food bank several times, without any questions asked," she said.

Chiki said she is not sure if the food bank will be here next year. "It depends on the need.

"It is usually the non-traditional student, like in Pam's case, who needs our help. Last year this started out internally, but this year we've extended the program to the community to get help," she said.

Chiki said that Student Administrative Council (SAC) has helped, but she would like to see more involvement from SAC.

"They have helped with posters and advertising, but since it is students' council, they should take a little more responsiblity."

However, Chiki said most students not only come in for assistance in food, but in counselling as well.

More than 120 people used the food service at the college. Even though this is new at Niagara, many colleges throughout Ontario have provided their students with this service.

EDITORIAL PAGE

Rae's generosity doubtful

It's funny how things work out sometimes.

Two weeks ago, an editorial appeared in the Niagara News that was slightly sarcastic toward Ontario Premier Bob Rae and the governing New Democratic Party (NDP).

Not really an odd thing, considering.

And yet, two weeks pass and now there is no sarcasm, only thanks. Yup, that's right, thanks. Everybody knows the NDP isn't famous for its generosity. However, on April 8, the NDP government announced plans to give Niagara College $22 million for a new campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and an additional $10 million for updating and renovating the Welland campus. I have to thank you Mr. Rae, but I also have to question your motives at the same time.

As your provincial campaign trail heats up, and calls swamp your office in opposition and outrage to the tuition increases you recently announced, falling back on a $22-million apology probably helps the headache, right?

We can hope that you don't really think this way. We can hope that because the Niagara Region has been one of the most economically hard-pressed areas in Ontario for the past four years, you saw only an opportunity to help out some of the people who voted you into office.

But, of course, all we can do is wonder, and give you the benefit of the doubt...maybe, because we must remind ourselves you do have possibly another year and a half in office.

Sean Rhoads

Freedom a great tradition

We have found recently whenever a discussion occurs about Canadian religious tolerance, the controversial issue of Sikh RCMP officers being allowed to wear turbans, rather than the traditional uniform hat, comes to the forefront.

We have no problems with Sikh officers wearing the turban on the job, and we have recently had many opportunities to defend our position to people who feel Canada is too tolerant and that a long tradition is being compromised.

A favorite argument against the turbans is that " the ceremonial uniform, including the hat, is a great Canadian tradition." Our problem with that is that the hat RCMP officers wear is a Stetson, made in the United States.

Perhaps an even greater Canadian tradition is Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees such fundamental rights as religion. And if these two traditions contradict one another, we think the freedoms our society is based on should prevail over an American hat.

Many also argue that because Sikhs have been allowed to enter our country, they are bound to follow our traditions and customs. This conformist view has no place in a society that often calls itself multicultural. Besides, aren't most of our *Canadian* traditions actually British?

Lastly, at a time when there are so many issues facing law enforcement agencies in Canada, such as a growing crime rate and allegations of racism, we feel it is kind of trivial being baited into an argument about their attire.

Michael Wales

Letter to the Editor

Niagara ready to compete

Dear Editor:

The Niagara Peninsula's community college is about to embark on the construction and renovation phase of its Master Plan to better serve all its students, adult learners and employers.

The plan consolidates 11 scattered, outdated sites, some owned and some leased, into three new or refurbished, well-located campuses.

These new facilities will enable our faculty and staff to continue to offer even more diverse learning and training opportunities for our 5,000 full-time students and more than 30,000 part-time registrants, adult learners, business and industry clients and workers who look to Niagara College to help them build a brighter future.

The plan calls for:

a) Five current campus operations to be consolidated on a 50-acre site at the junction of St. Catharines, Thorold, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake. The location is just off the QEW exit at Glendale Avenue and Taylor Road. The many outstanding features of this site make it an ideal location for a regional campus. Most importantly, there will be ample room for future expansion and ease of access from anywhere in the peninsula. This new campus will open in 1997 and is one kilometre from the eastern boundary of St. Catharines, 15 travel minutes from downtown Thorold, Niagara Falls and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and within 30 minutes of Grimsby, Port Colborne, Welland and Fort Erie. This regional campus will be the centre for our Business, Health Sciences, Horticultural and Environmental programs and the Ventures Division that specializes in employer-based training. Major fibre optic corridors near the campuses will connect learners interactively with global sources of information and expertise.

b) On the Welland campus, classrooms and student services currently housed in temporary buildings will be added to the main permanent classroom complex which will be modernized and equipped with easily accessed, advanced instructional technologies. A new, modern structure will be built to house the library and additional classroom and laboratory facilities. A new child care centre, a privately built and operated 200-bed student residence, an athletic complex, and a modern cafeteria will all be available in 1997. The Welland campus will continue to house our Technology, Community Studies, Applied Arts, Foundation Studies, Aboriginal Studies, Access and General Education programs and administrative offices.

The college has also begun to assess its space needs at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in *Niagara Falls. This highly successful facility will also be expanded to meet the growing need for training in this important industry.*

Of great import to the Niagara community will be the tremendous economic boost that will result from 320 person years of employment generated from new construction and the refurbishing of three cost-effective campuses.

Niagara College is dedicated to working closely with our public and private sector partners to develop the talent and skills that our community requires to compete effectively in this global economy. Niagara College takes very seriously its responsibility to intensify the critical role it plays to ensure that the Niagara Region will grow, attract new investment and, above all, prosper.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Baril, Chair
Board of Governors
Niagara College

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The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College.

P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 735-5365.

See you in September

From the first-year Journalism-Print program students, we wish all graduates a successful future in your chosen careers. To those returning, we wish you all a happy and leisurely summer.

We'll see you in September.

PERSPECTIVES

By JASON GRAHAM
Staff Writer

Well men, the roles have finally been reversed.

There's been a plethora of commercials that have sprung up on the television airwaves leaning towards selling products by using men as sex objects, and women are loving it.

Take, for example, one commercial for Diet Coke. It involves a group of women in an office getting together at 11:30 a.m. to watch a construction worker take off his shirt and guzzle the sugar-free beverage, while women stare longingly out the window at his naked upper half.

Mind the drool ladies.

This commercial is just one example victimizing men because somewhere, advertisers are trying to appeal to the women who, for years, have watched other women used as sex objects to sell male-oriented products.

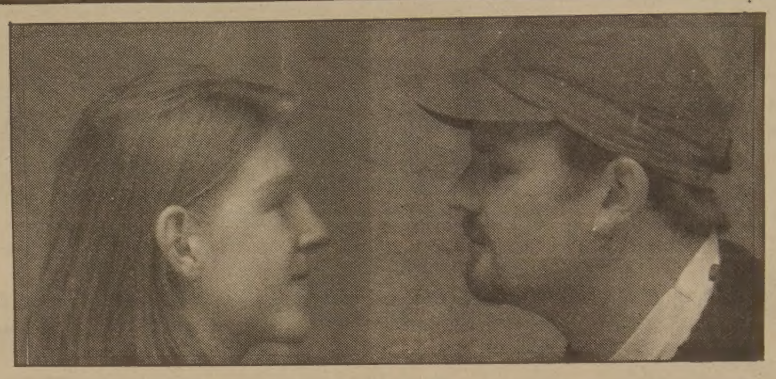
This bothers me.

Am I to sit idly by and let my male brothers be subjugated to this type of reverse discrimination? I see the slow smile growing on women's faces when these commercials pop up on the air and this is wrong.

If women spent so long aspiring for equality with the male gender why is this male ogling allowed? It is the same sexual stereotyping women fought long and hard to get rid of. It falls under the classic cliche, "two wrongs do not make a right."

I will agree most men will do nothing about this sexual discrimination. They will sit back and soak up this attention strictly based on their sexual self. Not me. I will comment at any woman who utters a groan, or pushes out a moan, and remind them this action is exactly why men have been classified as pigs.

Well, snort snort ladies, the snout is now on the prettier face.



Male sex appeal meets marketplace

By DAWN SAWYZE
Staff Writer

The bottom line is, sex sells.

Regardless of gender, sexuality has been used to market numerous products for generations. Fisher-Price is one of the only companies who hasn't used this tactic.

From Passion Flakie's steamy gardener to Life brand's sexy bath boy, men are now subject to the same humiliation that women have been subject to for years. Bring on the half dressed male torsos, I welcome the change in exploitation. Maybe it will do some good to have the shoe on the other foot.

In my opinion the tables have turned for the better.

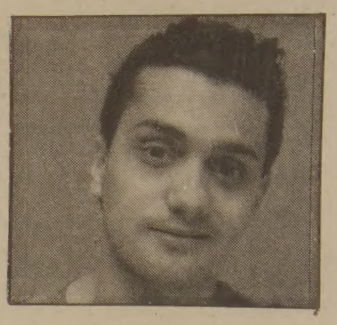
If the advertisement is done with taste then men should be subject to the same kind of attack women have been under for years. Marketing experts use this ploy because it works, not because they want to discriminate against men. Sexuality promotes a product better than any slogan or jingle in existence. People want to see skin, it's not my fault that it's male flesh this time around.

Two wrongs usually don't make a right but, this is the exception to the rule. Advertising firms continue to rake in the money, Flakie's have begun to sell by the box and women aren't the only tools for marketing products. Personally I don't see the harm in catering to the female consumer. It's a great idea considering the fact that women generally buy the groceries and other household items.

Men need to work on their public image if femi-Nazis had their way, the word man would be eliminated from the global language. I like the word man. I like to see male sex appeal plastered all over my 9 p.m. television, what woman doesn't?

If men do indeed become distraught over the publicity they can do what all women have done for eons, "grin and bear it boys."

Looking for stability on SAC



By MICHAEL MUCAKI
Staff Writer

Do you know who's on Student Administrative Council (SAC)? Kristen Sorensen? No, she quit in January. Cris Margeson? No, he was dismissed in late January, along with Jeremy Lowe and Leanne Newton for failure to maintain a 65 per cent grade average.

So, who is in charge?

It's Frank Keltos, who originally was vice-president athletics. What's going on?

Isn't this the third president this year? Wait, it gets even more confusing! How about another new president officially starting in May for the next school year!

Bernie Kurek, who became vice-president social in February, will have his work cut out for him. Kurek, I understand, is working hard to prepare for such a large responsibility and I think he will be prepared. The other SAC members, who for the most part have little experience in dealing with SAC activities, will need to learn fast.

In retrospect, there was activity week and SAC did have a very successful football trip in Buffalo. I'm impressed with the success they had despite the problems. SAC is also organizing a year-end bash on April 28 with many prizes, including a grand prize of one year paid tuition or a trip for two worth an estimated value of $1,500 for students not returning to school in the fall.

I've heard about problems at pub nights. I've even spoke with students involved in an incident a couple of months ago.

Is it necessary to have pub nights? If we do, I feel there should be one police officer attending, or perhaps we should cancel the event. Everyone's safety must be the top priority.

"There are still some preventative measures that must be taken for pubs in the future," said Kurek. "It is a learning process and we are still learning."

On the matter of SAC elections, when it was time to complete 1994-95 nomination forms, few students knew about the forms, except for people in the pub and those who check the bulletin boards.

Hey! Most students don't have time — or take the time — to check the bulletin boards or to go to the pub. The best time to inform students is in the classroom! And, isn't that the responsibility of all class representatives — to inform students about what's happening with SAC?

I heard nothing from my class representative. I even asked a few people from other programs about their class representatives, and the same result - nothing. No wonder there was no election for SAC positions, except vice-president social - a few knew!

Next year, SAC should ensure class representatives keep students informed and, maybe then, there will be more candidates for next April's SAC election.

Battling the ignorance of AIDS

By TAMMY CROCKER
Staff Writer

Although it's the 1990s, I find people are just as ignorant regarding Aquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) as they were 10 years ago.

Not only are people uninformed, but the 'why should I worry about AIDS, it won't happen to me' syndrome is running rampant.

Let me give you a poignant example of our misunderstandings of this brutal, life-stealing disease.

I know a little two-year-old girl who may have AIDS, obviously not by any fault of her own. Because this child's mother made a choice to be sexually promiscuous and abuse intravenous drugs, this little girl may die. Her siblings may also die.

It seems this situation couldn't have gotten any worse, however, it did. This little girl's family reacted with extreme fear, not allowing her to play with her cousins or other children. Her aunts and uncles refused to acknowledge her as a relative. Why? Because her family denied themselves proper education regarding AIDS. You may be one of those people.

AIDS is everywhere, plain and simple. I'm sure you've seen the television commercials, highway billboards and hotline numbers, all screaming point-blank messages; "Protect yourself!" (as if you should really care whether you live or die), "Don't share drug needles!" (as if you should be shooting drugs to begin with), "Use a condom!" (but it ruins the sex, why bother?). I could go on and on and on ... but this is not the issue.

The issue is protection. Protection for yourself, your children and your grandchildren. When you contract AIDS, there is a high risk that you can pass the disease to your children. They in turn can pass it to their children ... and so on.

Not only are they fooling with their lives, but they are also jeopardizing the lives of those they love. Who gave them the right to play God?

It's really that simple.

Let me sum up this issue in plain English.

Are you ready to die?

Dental program 'stressful', says student

By VICTORIA BECK
Staff Writer

Shireen Thring, 23, had planned to become a dental hygienist from day one.

Thring, from Puslinch, Ont., is a student in Niagara College's Dental Hygiene program.

Before coming to Niagara, Thring worked in two dental offices as a dental assistant.

She got her diploma in dental assistance from Career Canada, a private school, in Hamilton. She said the course was six months long, compared to 10 months at Niagara.

Thring is a preventive dental assistant (PDA). "You are a dental assistant but have extended duties," she said. She got this training in Prince Edward Island during a four-week course.

A dental assistant sterilizes the equipment, hands tools to the dentist, pours models and orders new supplies.

With the PDA designation, Thring could do more and sometimes that would overlap with the hygienists' duties.

The extended duties include replacing and removing rubber dams, doing coronal polishing and fluoride applications, along with oral hygiene instruction.

"It was hard to get into the Dental Hygiene program. I waited two years to get into it," said Thring.

There is a test given each year to students who want to enter the program. Each person is tested on their dental knowledge, general aptitude and manual dexterity.

The latter may involve carving a tooth, drawing a series of repetitive signs and symbols. Students are graded on the amount, accuracy and quantity of these symbols.

Thring found out last July she had been accepted for this year's program. She said she was "excited and scared because it's a very intense 10 months. It's that fear of not making it and not knowing whether you have the manual dexterity to be a hygienist."

The first four months have about 35 hours of classes each week. Ten hours are in clinics, working on mannequins learning instrument techniques, hand positions and the use of light.

Thring said she found it stressful because there is a lot of theory and concepts. There are about eight pre-clinical comprehensive tests that must be passed before students can go on to work on people in January.

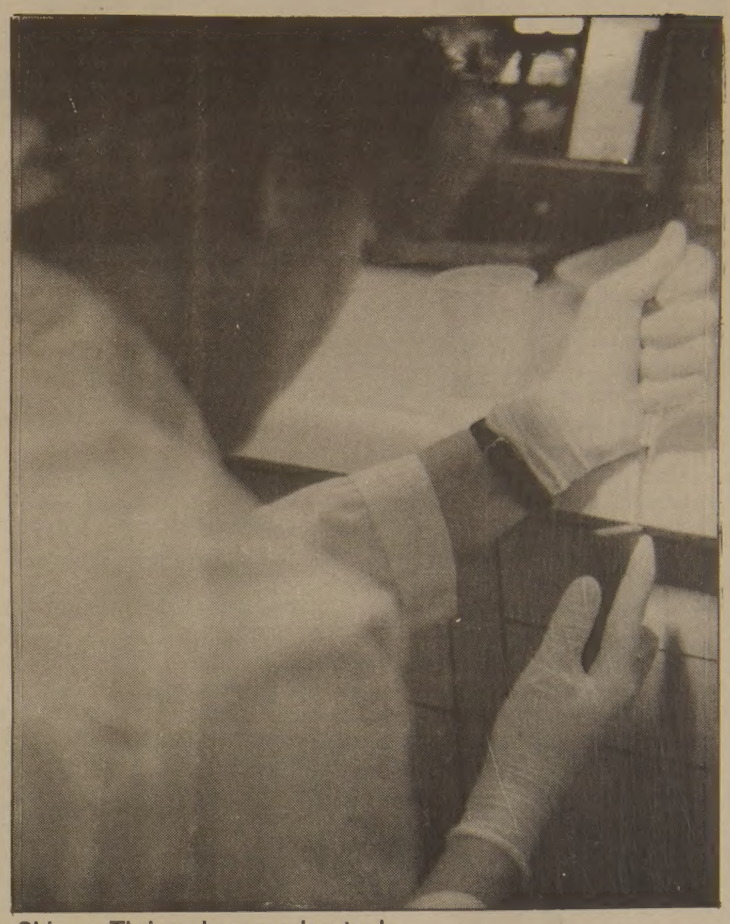
Each test is about 15 to 25 minutes long. Thring said she was worried about these tests because they were extremely stressful. There is an instructor watching everything the students do.

"Hygiene is based on individuals so there are no set rules for anybody. Dental hygiene care is targeted towards each individual's needs," said Thring.

"It was exciting and scary at the same time because we hadn't worked on people yet," said Thring about what it was like to start clinical work in February.

"I really enjoy clinic," Thring said. "I like it a lot. I just wish they could do something about the marking system so we didn't have to be marked at each point, but there is no other way to measure our progress so it has to be done. We have a certain number of requirements that have to be filled by the end of May.

"Dentistry is constantly coming up with new solutions to problems but there are still many out there that are unsolved, but we get closer to new solutions every day. Technology is getting better, but a wide range of questions are still unanswered," said Thring.



Shireen Thring sharpens her tools.

Photo by Victoria Beck

New facilities for course

By JASON GRAHAM
Staff Writer

Niagara College's horticulture building will finally get new facilities.

Tom Ball, co-ordinator of the Horticulture program, whose campus is located in St. Catharines, Ont., said he is pleased about Ontario Premier Bob Rae's announcement of $22 million the government will be giving Niagara College for the construction of a new campus.

"It is good news for the students," said Ball. "It will give them up to date facilities and use of services they never had before."

The new building will not affect the students already enrolled in the Horticulture program, but for future students it will be a benefit to their studies.

Ball said the faculty is a little uneasy about the move. He said there is a "fear of the unknown" when change is involved. Ball said there is "a lot of nostalgia" among the faculty in regards to the present horticultural center.

The new campus will be located at Taylor Road and Glendale Avenue, across from the White Oaks Tennis Club right off the QEW.

The location is especially beneficial for horticultural students because of the Woodland Conservation Area next to the proposed building site.

Ball said Woodland has "specific plant life" for the students to examine and study. He said this is an added bonus for the students because they will get the technical facilities as well as being closer to prime conservation land.

Niagara College owns 15 hectares of land in the conservation area, but, because it is on the Niagara escarpment, they are not allowed to build on it. The allotted space will be utilized by the students to expand their hands-on horticultural education.

Heath Anderson, 23, of Niagara Falls, Ont., is a former student of the Horticulture program.

"The parcel of land on the escarpment will allow the students to see how many of the plants and trees grow wild," said Anderson.

Hans van der Slagt, Niagara College's vice-president of administration, said he hopes the new building will be in full operation by the fall of 1996.

Students upset over program

By MICHAEL MUCAKI
Staff Writer

Some General Arts and Science students are frustrated with the way Niagara College officials are operating the program.

Some say they are disappointed with the quality of teachers, and others say the schedule given to them is inconvenient.

The program is aimed at allowing students to prepare themselves for other programs in the college.

"Class sort of drags on with some teachers and being a General student, I feel the schedules are poorly done," said Chris Fraracci, 18. "There are too many spares between classes."

"I'm not particularly impressed, it feels too much like high school, and I hated high school," said Eric Schmidt, 24.

"Also I've found that to get high marks I just have to show up. I haven't learned anything and it doesn't seem like I need to so far. I feel ripped off."

"It was very disappointing," said Dave, who didn't want his last name published. "The teacher-marking schemes are very drastic, but what I like about the college is it has a very social atmosphere."

"Since I'm a first-year student, I was fairly disappointed at some teachers' professional attitudes," said Donna, who that her last name not be published.

"I think the teachers are really good, they seem very experienced," said Derek Taylor, 20. "I feel they are patient."

"I like all my teachers," added Lena Spence, 18. "Two-hour spares are not too bad, but longer ones are boring."

Gord McPherson, co-ordinator of General Arts and Science, said if anybody has a disagreement on the way the teacher is teaching, then they should talk to the teacher in private. If they are not satisfied, then they should talk to the director.

McPherson said, with the college's Board of Governors' approval, next year's schedule should be better. "It will eliminate gaps in the schedule," he said.

Conversation buddies needed for ESL

By WILLIAM BECK
Staff Writer

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program has been part of Niagara College's curriculum for five years. Susan Vandenboom, program co-ordinator for the past three years, has seen a number of positive changes.

At its start, the program consisted of one basic English course and 12 students. Today, there are three levels, channelling students into beginner, intermediate and advanced, based on their knowledge of the English language. The program has 33 students.

The majority are Asian from Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Others are from Libya, Senegal and France.

The yearlong program is divided into four-month terms.

ESL helps to improve foreign students' grammar and verbal skills. Students are then able to enrol in regular programs at Niagara College and other schools. One student, after completing the program, is now enrolled in the Hospitality and Tourism programs in Niagara Falls.

The English course is divided into five separate units. They are: Reading and Writing, Grammar, Oral Communication, Cultural Adaptation and a Language Lab. This totals 25 hours per week. As well, one hour a week is set aside for an assembly of the students to gauge their progress and to discuss social events. They are planning a graduation party for April 29.

Vandenboom says the program has been successful in its approach to educate students, giving them a better understanding of the language and helping them to adapt to another culture.

"The program has certainly been successful. The students go from a state of dependence to independence (regarding their English skills)," said Vandenboom.

Financially, the program is running smoothly. But what does run high is tuition, close to $3,400, because the program is not subsidized by the provincial government. There is also the matter of living expenses, although the college provides for a homestay family in the area.

The ESL program is looking for volunteers to be conversation buddies with foreign students next year. If interested ,you can sign up in portable two, adjacent to Hennepin Hall on the Welland campus.

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Counselling co-ordinator offers study tips

By EVELYN BAUER
Staff Writer

"Help I need someone. Help not just anyone." This is the first line of an old Beatle's song called Help.

It's that time of year for many of us to face as students - exams.

Are any of you procrastinating in studying for finals and finishing the last of the course assignments?

This is not the time to do it!

There are services at Niagara College that can help and assist anyone who needs it at this point of time.

Brigitte Chiki, counselling co-ordinator, is the person who can help. No matter what the problem, the counselling office is available to anyone, and the appointments at the office are easy to make.

"Our work is very constant here," says Chiki. Because of the different school year for many students, many are coming in all the time for various reasons.

"We are not getting that many panic attacks regarding exams," she says.

Many students are finding support among themselves, study groups, within the classrooms, and using Peer Services Department.

Traditional and non-traditioal students are using the services. "Non-traditional students have more questions about their schooling and getting organized, usually having a nice list of questions. Traditional students might come in one at a time and in the end they ask all ask the same questions," she says.

Chiki offers this advice to all students:

1) Plan accordingly, don't cram for exams. It doesn't seem to work for most people. Planning is the best strategy.

2) Do not sit for many hours without a break studying one subject. Study for 20 to 40 minutes, then get up and walk around, have a snack and proceed with another subject.

3) Try to avoid studying a simiiliar topic. This may cause confusion with terms, definitions, etc.

4) Use a study group. Students working on the same subject can help test each other, exchange notes and information that may have been missed and and ask each other questions. Do not use the group as a means of socializing. It should be task orientated and focused.

5) There is Peer Tutoring services. It is free and available to anyone. It is not too late to use this service. It may be just what you may need for the next few weeks, says Chiki.

The Master Student course is "highly recommended" for students, says Chiki. It is advisable students take the course, and learn all they can from the book and teachers. Many students feel they know it all already, but there is always something new to learn, she says.

"Study skills are learned skills, and we are not born with them. Some people claim to be natural students. Even if you sit down and ask them, many have learned by trial and error. Master Student can help you learn all the different methods of studying and get comfortable with a method that is best suited for you," says Chiki.

"It is a hard grind at the end of the term and it is a lot of work and rightfully so. Perhaps what students should think about is the reward at the end of the term. Whether it is a trip somewhere, a celebration through student council, they should include a reward for themselves," says Chiki.

SAC wants After Hours to stay open later

By ALLAN SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) hopes to extend the hours of After Hours to about 10 p.m. "sometime next year."

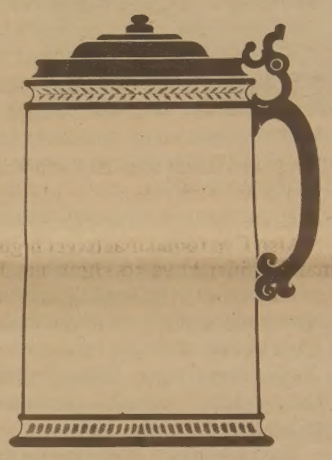
After Hours, which opens at 11:30 a.m., now closes at 5 p.m.

"The reason is to offer students more time for recreation," says SAC's executive vice-president Trevor Obee, 21, a first-year Journalism-Print program student. "The students deserve what they paid for."

"It would be pretty cool I guess; more money for the college," says Dave Grodesky, 20, a student in the Human Relations program.

Jim Kramer, 29, a Business Administration program student, agrees with the plan, although he says the pub should be open until midnight. "It will raise more money staying open later."

Marcelo Orellana, 22, also in the Business Administration program, and Flo Therrien, 24, an Electrical Engineering program student, say the increased pub hours will benefit those involved in "night school" after daily classes. "It's the best place to go when a student needs a break," says Orellana. "These students want to relax before going home to do more homework," says Therrien.



A major concern is the promotion of "alcohol abuse" if the hours of the student centre are increased.

First-year Journalism-Print program student Jason Graham, 24, SAC vice-president for the 94/95 school year, states: "We are all adults here at college, it would not be abused."

Shown is the building housing After Hours and Student Administrative Centre office at the Welland campus Student Centre.

Photo by Allan Shields

Many students oppose the idea of tuition hikes

By ANTHONY GROSSI
Staff Writer

Ontario Premier Bob Rae continues to anger people by conflicting with his party's policies.

On April 7, Rae decided to increase provincial revenue by increasing tuition 10 per cent each year for the next two years.

The increase means that college students will have to pay about $92 more in September and about $100 more next year.

"I think it's unfair to the students who have to pay for their tuition by working part-time," said Angela Valente, 19, a first-year Health Science program student. "The increase means the students will spend more time working and less time devoted to their studies," she said.

Leo Dicorrado, 19, a first-year Business Accounting program student, lives alone and finds it "very difficult" to pay for his tuition and rent. "Because of the increase I'll have to shuffle my expenses, save more money and work more hours during the summer just to pay for tuition so I can get back into school."

Dicorrado also said he is afraid of tuition going up again because of the rate of increase in the previous years. "The government is trying to increase cash flow and the students are paying for it," he said.

It will be especially tough on those students who rely on Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).

"The increase is a shame because a lot of people who can't get OSAP but could use it can't get into school," said Amanda Corbett, 19, a first-year Education Resource and Special Needs (ERSN) student. "The tuition is already too high and the $200 material fee I paid could be put to better use."

Corbett said if the money from the increase was going back into the school it would be more appealing to her.

Heath Anderson, 23, a first-year Journalism-Print program student and OSAP recipient, said "I will be going through a lot of changes this summer, like getting married, and the rate hikes are going to hit me hard."

Anderson said OSAP won't cover him so he will probably have to take out a personal loan. "Once again the government has shown who it really cares about, the big boys, and the little guy gets it in the end."

Talents displayed: Visualize '94

By PAUL HARDY
Staff Writer

After months of hard work, second-year Fashion Merchandising-Visual Promotions students were finally able to show off their creative skills at Visualize '94.

The students, who were split up into groups of two, had to construct visual displays that would be used to display merchandise. Each display had to follow a theme and included three basis components: a mannequin, a display unit and a backdrop. They've been working on the project since the beginning of the term.

The actual merchandise was provided by mall merchants.

Some of the themes included *The Ultimate Seduction* and *Poison of Dracula*.

Co-ordinator Joan Davies said she was pleased with the students' work.

"The students took pride in their project and were very particular about their work."

Davies said a number of steps were involved before a finished product was achieved.

In the beginning, a dramatic arts teacher was brought in to help the students to actually visualize how their projects would look. From there, it was a process of creating working sketches, scale models and learning different painting and carving techniques.

The display drew a lot of attention and "lots of comments,"said Davies.

One display that raised a few eyebrows was entitled "World Awareness". The display was a statement on AIDS, and included a condom tree.

Davies called the display, which was created by Kurt Lambert and Camilia Nicoara, "clever and eye-catching.

Visualize '94 was the final grading assignment of the year for the students.

Mia Yoo with her display entitled Jewel of the Nile.
Photo by Paul Hardy

Environmental programs teach practical applications

By CRAIG MORRISON
Staff Writer

With environmental issues affecting all walks of life, many colleges are teaching young people the importance of the environment.

At the Niagara College St. Catharines campus, there are two main courses being taught on environmental issues. Programs like Environmental Health and Environmental Sampling And Analysis teach students not only of environmental issues, but treatment and prevention of these issues.

Environmental Health teaches students about disease in co-ordination with environmental conditions. Environmental Sampling And Analysis teaches students about how to take samples whether they be air, water, or soil, what method of analysis to use, and how to interpret the data collected.

Both programs teach post-secondary and post-graduate students the fundamentals of environmental remediation and processes. After graduating from the program students will know theoretical and practical aspects of environmental assessment and clean up procedures. Many universities do not teach this.

"Universities are mainly concerned with the theoretical aspect of the environmental issue," said Joan Morrison, a teacher at the centre.

There are two funded programs taught at the centre. The first is funded by Niagara Industrial Training Advisory Corporation (NITAC), and deals with waste management and changes in legislation and the Waste Management Act, a provincial law.

"It is these (programs') students are in great demand," said Morrison.

The second program is funded by Employment Canada (CEIC). It deals with the environmental health and safety aspect. These people play a multi-role in society.

First they deal with health and safety aspect, but they also deal with small businesses and small industry concerning rules and regulations regarding environmental health and safety.

The Centre for Environmental Training has been in existence for five years. Teaching programs have been offered for two years, but are growing rapidly, said Morrison.

Students interested in the environment can contact the centre for more information.

Technology staff strives to keep college current

By BRYON SOKOLOSKI
Staff Writer

Niagara College needs financial assistance from outside institutions in order to keep as up-to-date as possible, says Anthony Backler, the college's director of technology.

In hopes of raising outside interest and awareness, Niagara held a information night for Timberline Software Corporation on April 14.

The college is hoping such information nights will make the industry aware that Niagara College is utilizing up-to-date resources and keeping its students as current as possible.

Technology is constantly changing, said Backler.

There is a need to update systems and keep the level of instruction equal to the level of technology or at least close, he said, adding the funding given to the college by the province is not adequate to suit the college's needs.

The technology staff reviews the college system every year and a more in depth review every three years just to stay current, said Backler.

Over a recent five-year period, high schools got $60 million for technology while colleges got $20 million for the same period, said Backler.

He said high schools receive this money specifically for technology, while colleges must use the money they receive from the province for all programs, not just technology.

There is a "big inequity" in the amount of funding that is given out by the province. "To bring Niagara College up-to-date, I would need $2 million," he said. "To really do something, I could probably use between $5 million and $7 million," Backler said.

"Technical demands keep increasing" yet Niagara cannot hope to stay current with the money its receives, he said.

"It's a matter of life and death," that the college get the updated software and technology or Niagara (College) cannot give its students the best possible training, he said.

Without up-to-date training, our graduates will not be ready to enter the workforce, said Backler.

Student senate looking for logo

By KAREN FREEMAN
Staff Writer

New and interesting things are happening at Niagara College's St. Catharines campus.

The Student Senate there functions much like the Student Administrative Council (SAC) at the Welland campus.

The Student Senate is operated by students, who are in different programs and do a variety of tasks.

The members are: Paul Grummet, president; Anne Hodson, secretary; and Dan Monteith, treasurer.

"We've got some very hard-working class reps," said Dominic Trimboli, staff adviser for the Student Senate.

He said the Senate "quietly serves" the students by providing academic awards, assisting with the parking fees, and giving emergency funds to students who are in need.

Each year, the Senate holds a Christmas party for the staff, students, parents and children of the college. This year, the Student Senate sponsored the Christmas Party with more than 400 children in attendance, said Trimboli. "It was a great success."

Fundraising isn't necessary since the Senate owns three vending machines and a large portion of the money comes from the machines, he said.

Recently, the Senate lounge had a face lift, adding three new video games and pool tables.

Trimboli said there is one rule when the lounge is open, "No Food or Drink Allowed." He said the bottom line is for a clean, neat and tidy place.

There is also a logo contest for the Student Senate in St. Catharines. However, any Niagara College student interested can enter. The logo will represent the Student Senate.

Trimboli said the response so far has not been good.

If anyone is interested, contact Trimboli at Ext. 2409 (St. Catharines), or Ext. 7786 (Welland) or any other Student Senate members.

There are no new plans for the fall, said Trimboli. Because of the nature of the programs in St. Catharines, Senate elections are held in September.

Transit riders may pay more

By MICHAEL MUCAKI
Staff Writer

Night riders be prepared to spend more money on bus fare.

There are negotiations that the prices might be going up to $2 soon from $1.30. If the prices go up riders will not be allowed to use their bus card.

Charles Stolte, manager of Welland Transit, said there is a chance of price increase for the night service, but he will know more in the third week of April.

They are working on a research and development project sponsored by the Government of Ontario, said Stolte.

"The cost of living is going up and, unfortunately, everything eventually has to increase in price. If I had $100,000 to spend on the bus service there would be no problems, but the transit does not have $100,000," said Stolte.

Asked if there's a chance of expanding night service to two buses, he said if there was an increase in usage it would be considered. He added there is no intention to expand to a community bus for Saturday nights.

Some people who ride the night bus said they are unhappy with the possible changes.

Terry Nie, 28, of Welland, confined to a wheelchair, said it will be tough to start paying $2 cash every night. Nie, like many night customers, is upset the quality of the service is low.

"I would get to the mall at 8:20 p.m. and then I would have to take the 9:20 p.m. bus home," said Nie, adding the bus is the last to get him home.

"The night service started on September 1991 and it ran from 3 p.m. till 11 p.m," said Nie. "I feel lucky, the bus picks me up where I live."

Helen Conway is a senior citizen who rides the bus regularly and is upset the prices are going up. "Centering one bus is not right. Why are they thinking of taking away service and raising the prices at the same time? It will be a shame if the night service stops."

Willy Noiles, a first-year Niagara College Journalism-Print program student, has used the night service. "Paying $2 is not fair. Welland is not as big as Toronto."

Noiles said he doesn't feel Welland should be charging the same price as Toronto.

"It's ridiculous they're going to raise the price for people to ride the bus for such a short distance," he said.

The night bus runs from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m., weekdays. The bus arrives at Hennepin Hall starting at 7:15 p.m. and runs every hour until 10:15 p.m.

For more information call Welland Transit at 732-6844

ENTERTAINMENT

The man behind Buddy Cole speaks

By WILLY NOILES
Staff Writer

Many of us know him as Buddy Cole, the bar queen with a quick wit, on *Kids In The Hall*. But have you ever wondered about the man behind the queen?

Scott Thompson, 36, is a gay man and is not afraid to admit it. He said being gay has helped his career. "If I had stayed in the closet, I don't know what I'd be talking about. I'm sure there are a lot of other things to talk about, but I think I'd be really boring." He added, "the more honest you are, the better comic you are," in a recent telephone interview from his Toronto home.

During the 30-minute interview, the biggest surprise was his voice—much deeper than viewers would expect.

Born in North Bay and raised in Brampton, Thompson in typical deadpan fashion describes his adolescence as a "fairy crossing in a north sea during a gale, but I only puked once."

He said gay youth of today are still scared, but they at least have positive images. "When I was young, the only images I could see would be the ballet dancers in Time (magazine)...I would always go to the dance section and look at those men, and go, 'oh, I bettcha they're gay.'"

He has no problems identifying with Generation X. "I think that what's happened is because I came out at 24, that's basically where my sexual life began and my life as a gay man. So, in many ways, emo-

Special photo
By Ellen Tofflemire
Courtesy of CBC

tionally and sexually and psychologically, I was a lot like 14 years old. So,...I identify with a generation below me."

Two of Thompson's biggest "icons" are Bea Arthur (*Maude*) and Paul Lynde (*Bewitched*). "I was a huge Maude fan. When everyone else was watching *Monty Python*, I was tuning in to *Maude*.

"We...like the fact that she kept men in their place. There was a lot of revenge fantasy in *Maude*."

Mark McKinney, a fellow *Kid* is credited with bringing Thompson into the *Kids In The Hall* troupe in 1984, when they were performing in clubs.

Kids signed with *Saturday Night Live* producer Lorne Michaels in 1988. From there they were brought to CBC.

Thompson said CBC's initial reaction to *Kids* was "tentative. fearful." He insists, though, not everyone was tentative.

"Other people certainly were afraid of us. There was a clamp on us during the first few years. To their (CBC) credit they've censored us less and less. Nowadays they don't censor us at all."

Thompson said he decided to portray gay characters, such as Buddy Cole and Butch, because, "I'm a gay person and I know a lot of gay people and they come in a lot of shapes and sizes and colors and behaviors. And I think the gamut of gay behavior is as wide as the gamut of straight behavior. I just choose to portray the people around me."

He feels Buddy is an empowering image for gay and straight people. "He's the star and the hero, and he always wins. And he's smarter than anyone around him."

There are some he describes as "the gay elite" who do not find Buddy a good image. "I think that a number of them might find him very problematic and difficult to handle. A lot of them...want all gay images to be positive."

Thompson said it's "great" that gay celebrities are coming forth with their homosexuality. Though he wishes "that some men would do it. You do not see men crawling out of the closet."

Asked his reaction to television featuring gay characters, he has strong opinions. "I think television has been reprehensible in its treatment of gays. And when they do try, they do it with such a vanilla hand. They're really afraid of gay life.

"My problem is they never have gay men acting like gay men. They act like straight men. We don't generally. Some do, but then, does a movie have to be made about them?"

He was disappointed over a Premiere magazine featuring *Philadelphia* stars Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington, and its headline, 'Hollywood Confronts AIDS'.

"Two straight men on the cover and they're finally confronting AIDS? Really? That's insane. Does anybody ever think it might be interesting to have a ...gay actor for some of these parts," then laughing, adds, like "me!"

Thompson, like many comedians, bases most of his characters on people he knows. "Fran is inspired by my mother and her twin. Francesca (Fiore) is inspired by my old boyfriend."

He said the voice of Buddy is based on an effeminate man he was attracted to once. "I found his effeminacy very powerful and aggressive, and he had an incredible wit. He was much meaner than Buddy is. I think that Buddy is actually very warm." He wanted Buddy to be a warm character because "he

sort of expresses how I feel about things. I'm not a cold queen."

Moidra, the prostitute, another Thompson character, is inspired by "the whore in me."

There have been rumors about the *Kids* ' cohesiveness as a group, but Thompson said he and the cast (McKinney, Bruce McCulloch, Dave Foley, and Kevin McDonald) are a "very tight hockey line-up."

The *Kids* have signed a movie deal with Paramount Pictures. Michaels will produce but no other details have been finalized.

A tour that will cover major centres in Canada and the U.S. has already begun. (Two shows are scheduled for Hamilton Place on April 30 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tickets are still available.)

There is enough film available to keep the show running until Christmas, a *Kids* representative said, but this will be the last season.

Thompson said he'd one day like to create a sitcom featuring Buddy. Asked if he would incorporate some of the things Maude did into this sitcom, he replied, "You mean wear those incredible sweater vests, have an abortion, bond with a black maid?"

Thompson adds there has been no reaction from the Queen in response to his portrayal of her on *Kids*. "But I would love that. I may be radical, but deep down I love my Queen."

Gogo uses originality

By JOHN SAVOIE
Staff Writer

David Gogo uses originality and plays a variety of powerful blues on his debut CD entitled *David Gogo*.

The young British Columbian guitarist searches his roots in blues and gives his music an edge of muscular guitar.

Gogo has been compared to blues master Stevie Ray Vaughan, but his style was extraordinary and Gogo will have to play more subtle blues in order to earn such a title.

Gogo is an amazing guitarist with a great deal of talent. He will be one of this country's hottest guitarists if he continues recording material similar to this.

He mixes blues with a hard-rock attitude making an original masterpeice of his first CD. Powerful guitar, strong drums, and intense vocals make a mix that should make any musician take note.

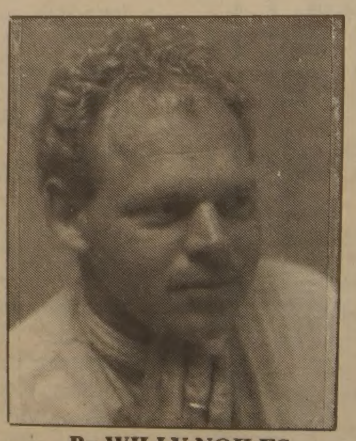
The CD features 12 strong blues songs written by Gogo except for *It's My Own Fault*, written by B.B. King. Sure-fire

hit singles include *Deep End, Movn' On Out,* and *Play The Blues.*

Gogo is on a Canadian tour with stops in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver.

If you enjoy the blues and want to experience something totally revolutionary in blues guitar, look for Gogo's new CD.

Spirit lives on in their films



By WILLY NOILES
Staff Writer

The other night I was watching *Between Two Women*, starring Farrah Fawcett and Colleen Dewhurst, and I was reminded of three of the best actors we've lost in recent years. To me they were Dewhurst, Sandy Dennis, and River Phoenix.

All died too young. The youngest was Phoenix, who died in November 1993 at 23. A bright shining star extinguished before his time.

Phoenix specialized in playing the young man who wasn't afraid to show his tender side. Much has been said about Phoenix since, but I choose to remember his performances in such films as *Stand By Me, Running On Empty* (for which he was Oscar-nominated), *My Own Private Idaho* and the recent *Thing Called Love*.

Across the spectrum was Dewhurst, who was at home playing the woman with a hard shell protecting a passionate soul. Roles in *Anne of Green Gables*, TV's *Murphy Brown* (Emmy-winners for both), and *Dying Young* (where she was teamed with her son Campbell Scott) best showed the real Dewhurst.

She died at the age of 67 in August 1991, leaving behind a bulk of work in film, TV, and the stage.

Another veteran of film, TV, and stage was Dennis who died in March 1992 at 54. In such films as *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (Oscar-winner for Best Supporting Actress), *Four Seasons, Another Woman*, and her last, *Indian Runner*, she made a career of playing neurotic, slightly strange women. A role not far from the real Dennis.

None of these actors could ever be replaced, but their films live on, as does their spirit.

NIAGARA COLLEGE GETS NEW CAMPUS

Niagara-on-the-Lake new campus site

By MICHAEL GREVES
Staff Writer

The new Niagara College campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake will house all health sciences, business, horticulture, environmental programs and the Ventures division, said Hans van der Slagt, college vice-president of administration.

Of the $32 million provincial grant, $22 million will be spent on a 200,000-square-foot building. There is also a fund-raising plan to bring the total funding to about $42 million.

The 50 acres of land, purchased last fall for $1.5 million, will provide parking for up to 1,800 vehicles, and sites for a 200-bed residence, a recreation facility and day-care centre. Both the residence and the day-care are part of the second phase of building.

The new campus, on the south-east corner of Glendale Avenue and Taylor Road, will ease space requirements and improve program delivery at the Welland campus.

"This campus (Welland) will continue to be the location for all of our arts programs, our access and general education (programs) and all the technology programs," said van der Slagt. Skills training programs will located there too.

As outlined in a Master Plan funding announcement, a consulting service recommended a consolidation of college programs and services at three major campuses, elimination of temporary buildings at the Welland campus and replacement of the St. Catharines campus because of high renovation costs and insufficient land requirements.

"The horticulture program . . . located in a very old building, a 120- year-old private home . . . (was) not really designed for what we're using it for and it's now in bad need of repair and updating," van der Slagt said. "Our feeling was that we didn't want to put a lot of money into a building that didn't belong to us."

The St. Catharines campus, a 90-year-old converted factory building, requires major, costly repairs including roof and window replacement, asbestos removal, and a new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system, the funding announcement said.

The cost of leasing the six campus locations is about $450,000, said van der Slagt. It was identified as an unnecessary cost to Ontario's taxpayers, said the college's press release.

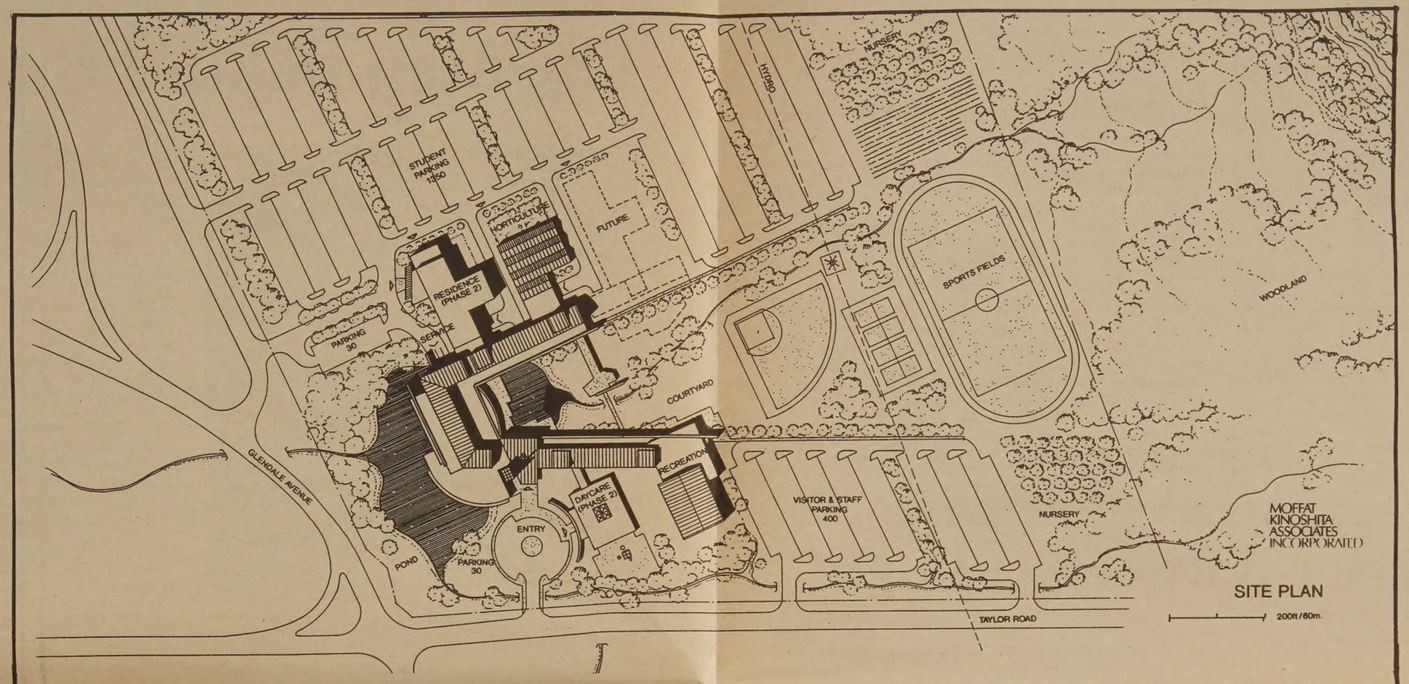
Three buildings at the Welland Campus; the Mackenzie building, the Black Walnut building and Hennepin Hall, are slated for replacement.

A day-care facility south of parking lot A, a recreation facility as part of the west end of Hennepin Hall, and a new building housing the Learning Resource Centre and the broadcasting program, south of the Voyageur wing have been planned, creating a proper entrance to the college from parking lot G. The residence might be built just behind parking lots E and F on First Avenue.

Designs haven't been started, but conceptual drawings have been made.

"We've had the architects on board for some time. They've essentially been doing some broad planning with us, but they're now working with our users to finalize their (the programs') space requirements. Then they'll get into the design phase and then construct drawings, which then we'll put out to tender and contractors can bid on," van der Slagt said.

"My expectations are that we will be breaking ground in early spring 1995 and then the new building will be about 18 or 19 months under construction, so that we would have an opening in the fall of 1996."



Site plan for Niagara-on-the-Lake campus

jobsOntario

'It's wonderful,' says Russo

By TAMMY CROCKER
Staff Writer

'This is the day the region can rejoice' -Dietsch

Happy days are here again for Niagara College.

Lyn Russo, director of marketing and communications, was ecstatic following the announcement by Ontario Premier Bob Rae granting Niagara College $22 million for the construction of a new campus by the QEW corridor in Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) and an additional $10 million allocated for renovations at the Welland campus.

"It's wonderful," said Russo.

The investment in the college will allow similar programs such as the dental and nursing programs to be housed under one roof. Students will receive better equipment, and have the opportunity to meet other students from similar career-related fields.

What would have happened if the college did not receive the funding? "We certainly wouldn't have been able to meet the needs of the community," Russo said.

NOTL Lord Mayor Mike Dietsch was "absolutely elated."

The new campus location will act as a beacon to the region, said Dietch. "This is the day the region can rejoice. The real winner is the whole region."

President Saso says 'YES' to $32 million

By WILLY NOILES
Staff Writer

It was a day of broad smiles as Premier Bob Rae announced Niagara College was to receive $32 million.

Many local dignitaries and college staff gathered in a crowded ballroom at White Oaks Inn in Niagara-on-the-Lake to hear Rae and Ontario Education and Training Minister Dave Cooke deliver the news.

Larry Naftulin, the college foundation's chief executive officer, described it as the "happiest day" in the college's history.

"We're very, very proud of what the college has been able to do," said Rae. "We're proud of the local leadership that John (Saso, college president) has provided and those working with him have been able to provide...It has made an enormous difference knowing we have such talented and dedicated and really creative people (working in the college) community."

Among the guests gathered for one of the biggest announcements in the college system were federal Speaker of the House Gilbert Parent, Welland-Thorold-St. Catharines MP, former college graduate and MPP Peter Kormos, local mayors, and many college staff.

Welland-Thorold MPP Kormos recalled his time at the college in its early years. "I'm especially grateful because Niagara was the first school that ever permitted me to graduate. And the announcement having been made, that fact will no longer be held against the college."

'We're very, very proud of what Niagara College has been able to do,' - Bob Rae

Kormos said he was impressed by Saso's leadership and his administrator's work. "They have undertaken a very lengthy and difficult task of determining priorities for the college and determining the manner in which those priorities will be implemented...I'm extremely proud of the college and the manner in which it's undertaken its new stage in its growth."

Saso, calling himself "today's happiest fellow," said it was "a great day" for the students and education in this area. He said the government's slogan of "jobs, jobs, jobs pairs beautifully with the college's main reason for being, students, students, students."

Saso said the praise should be "shared amongst all the people in the college." He especially praises the college's Board of Governors for its work over the past few years.

He adds one of the main reasons Niagara College received this money was because of its reputation and quality of service, and the skills of working graduates.

Saso said one of the examples of quality of service the college provides is that he personally signs all diplomas. His commitment to students is that if they put in the two years of their diploma, he will personally sign them, instead of putting them through a machine.

Welland Mayor Dick Reuter said it was a great day for the city of Welland, the Niagara Region, and Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Michael Dietsch.

Reuter said the college is a "tremendous corporate citizen" and "premier educators in the community."

Dietsch called it a "tremendous day in the future of Niagara College...and the Niagara Region."

To Rae, Dietsch joked, "Mr. Premier, I never once thought that I would be cancelling my vacation to come and listen to you. I never once thought that I would be jumping to my feet with a standing ovation, but...anytime you want to come back with this kind of announcement, I will do all to again."

"If there's one thing that this Niagara Region will be known for in the future, it will be [as] the home of Niagara College," said Dietsch.

Lincoln MPP Ron Hansen said all but one of his staff is a Niagara College graduate, and added, "Niagara has become a learning centre for all of Ontario."

St. Catharines-Brock MPP Christel Haeck, a former Niagara College board member, admitted the decision to locate in Niagara-on-the-Lake instead of downtown St. Catharines was not well received by all. But, she said, the site is the "best choice at the best time."

"We have to see a vision that stretches beyond our own little platoon from time to time. We have to appreciate that the college is serving a function as a resource for the entire region," said Rae.

"The decisions made by the college after a long period of discussion and consultation should be ones that should allow the community to pull together."

Saso said while the site does not please everyone, in "10 years people will look back and say it was a smart decision."

Regional Chair Brian Merrett also expressed his admiration for the college's administration. "John, I...want to commend you and your staff, the board of the college for the tremendous amount of work and tenacity you've shown in bringing home this project."

But Saso summarized the entire day in one line, "I'm sure I can sum up the feelings of our boards and my Niagara College colleagues in just one word -*"YES!"*

Ontario Premier Bob Rae and Niagara College President John Saso are all smiles over the funding announcement for the new campus.

Photo by Tammy Crocker

Obee's long strange journey on SAC

By GORDON HILL
Staff Writer

Trevor Obee, 21, a Journalism-Print program student, has seen many changes in student council since he was elected vice-president internal.

As a result of the recent upheaval at the Student Administrative Council (SAC), Obee was appointed executive vice-president.

He enrolled at Niagara College last fall.

"Instead of getting involved with the student media, I decided to get into student politics . . . what student council has allowed me to do is to work in public relations," promoting activities such as the open mic, comedians, and pub nights like the year end-bash, and most recent St. Patties day bash, he said.

As executive vice-president, one of Obee's duties is public relations for SAC activities in as much as posters, flyers, and advertising in the student paper and radio station.

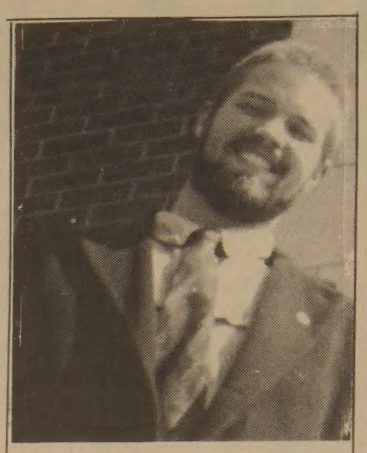
"In order to get people to come out you have to keep telling them about it, making sure they know about it," said Obee. "You have to be persistant. You can't let them forget, because they won't come out."

A tough job, but never the less, the activities he has promoted have been "well received" by the student body, more so than in recent years, Obee said.

From his political involvement with the student council, Obee has found a desire to continue in politics, eventually on a federal level or possibly with the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training.

"If we're going to compete in a global market, we need educated people. The key to good education is to make sure it's financed properly. It's something I strongly believe in, in that it should be the main priority of any government," Obee said.

Born Dec. 29, 1972, he was the first of his parents' three children. Growing up in St. Catharines, he attended Applewood Elementary in Merritton. Because of his antics as the class clown while he attended Ferndale Junior High, his Grade 7 teacher told him he was "a hopeless cause and would never amount to anything."



Executive VP Trevor Obee

After graduating from Ferndale, he entered Merritton High where, Obee said, "because of my label at junior high I was told not to bother taking any advanced courses, so I was at the general level."

Not feeling challenged by the general education program at Grade 10, he changed courses- which led to his involvment with drama and theatre arts.

By Grade 11, he enrolled in more English courses to better understand drama scripting, and the critique of plays. It was at that time he started writing down his ideas (for plays), which helped keep his interest in school.

As he started acting, his grades improved to about an A average. "I even won an award for individual performance at the Sears Regional Drama Festival in the spring of 1989," he said.

"For the first two years I felt lost in the system, when I started taking theatre arts courses that changed," Obee said. After receiving enough credits in Grade 12, he obtained his high school diploma.

"In addition to theatre arts courses, I took television arts. Basically, the course introduced students to broadcating," he said.

These courses influenced his decision to attend Mohawk College in Hamilton and enrol in the broadcast-journalism course at the Hamilton campus. "I could take the presentation skills I learned in theatre arts, and my knowledge of writing from English, then apply them to broadcasting in a creative and practical way," he said.

While at Mohawk College, he was involved with the college radio station. In March 1992, Obee became news director of the station. "It was my job to find out what students would be interested in and put it on the air."

He remained as news director until April 1993. It was at that position Obee said, "I discovered I was a workaholic putting in on average about 50 hours a week, including my course load." It wasn't only because of his duties that he worked so hard, but rather he enjoyed what he was doing, he said.

Among his many duties at the station, he was given the chance to meet with federal Liberal Party leader Jean Chretien and conduct a brief interview with him for the college station.

Obee completed his work placement for the broadcasting course at radio station CHSC in St. Catharines as a general and feature reporter. After his placement, he worked for the station as a freelance reporter for two months in the summer of 1993.

The reason for his enrolment in the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College was, "to work on my journalism skills even more," Obee said.

Eliminating the barrier between cultures

Human Resources student, Brandy George, addresses audience in the Hamilton Room.

Photo By Gordon Hill

By GORDON HILL
Staff Writer

An aboriginal perspective on cultural assimilation was given by three Human-Relations program students on April 19.

During the presentation in the Hamilton Room, Chris Shawanoo, Heather Smith and Brandy George asked the audience to close their eyes and imagine being a small child five or six years of age.

You have been removed from your home and told your mother and father are dead. You are a child who has been uprooted from your own culture and forced into another culture with extreme discipline for nonconformity.

It sounds cruel, but these atrocities occurred to the United States' and Canada's native residential school assimilation program, said Shawanoo.

Aboriginal children were taken from their families at ages ranging from five to 17 and sent to residential schools and forced to learn English, while not being allowed to speak their native language.

"Reports are the punishments were severe and inhumane to force the children into the assimilation process," George said, adding the native culture was nearly destroyed with these policies. "Once you take children away from any culture, that's when it takes away any chance for a culture to survive."

'With all their efforts to assimilate native cultures, the U.S. and Canada should make some effort in aboriginal language programs'-George

Society expected aboriginal people to exist in a lower class role and continued to suppress their cultural ties, George said.

The residential school era had a profound effect on aboriginal culture and, for many decades, aboriginal culture has been unheard of in the educational system, George said.

She recommended the movie *'Where the Spirit Lives'*, which is a portrayal of one girl's life in an aboriginal residential school.

Aboriginal people can revive their culture through the reinforcement of their language, said George.

With all their efforts to assimilate native cultures, the U.S. and Canada should make some effort to assist in aboriginal language programs, he said.

"There is a small conflict between native traditions and a Christian lifestyle," said Shawanoo.

Many people have a stereotyped impression of aboriginal culture, Shawanoo said.

Pow Wow's are not "the skipping, mouth slapping, dancing in circle pagans portrayed in cartoons," he told the audience.

A Pow Wow has a "very significant meaning" with different kinds of dancers and various types of songs, (some religious and others social), Shawanoo said.

Aubry Bissett, psychology instructor, said, "For my course, all the students are asked to do a presentation, and these students asked for more time; their presentation just took-off from there with my full support."

CETA program goes high tech with Timberline

By ANTHONY GROSSI
Staff Writer

Niagara College has stepped into the future of the construction industry.

The Construction Engineering Technology-Architecture (CETA) program held a seminar to introduce the construction industry to Timberline on April 14, in the Hamilton Room at the Welland campus. The seminar's data was prepared by the third-year CETA students.

Timberline is a computer-estimating package which calculates the costs of labor, equipment and materials in building projects.

The $35,000 program was donated to the college by the Timber Corp. from Portland, Ore.

Ron Shaw, co-ordinator of the Construction Engineering Technology-Architecture program, said the seminar was held to invite industry into the college. It served as an information night for industry which is unfamiliar with the software.

'Everything in the construction field will be automated,'-Richer

"Timberline is purely a construction estimating cost program but it can be intergrated with other programs," said Shaw. "In the near future, everything will be computer estimating . . . Timberline is the Lotus [computer language] of the construction industry."

John Stranges, 21, a third-year Construction Engineering Technology-Architecture program student, said Timberline will help him find a job and that it is a definite asset to learn.

"The program is very well educated in Timberline. No other college in the region is better than this one," he said. Stranges added Timberline has given him an advantage over competing students.

Pat Richer, 26, a third-year Construction Engineering Technology-Architecture student, said, "everything in the construction field will be computer automated. It is to my advantage to be computer literate."

He said he would like to start his own company, but first he wants some experience in the management end of construction.

Liberal MPP for ending sexual discrimination

By WILLY NOILES
Staff Writer

Tim Murphy has kept his promise. He wants sexual discrimination prohibited, opening the door for same-sex spousal recognition.

Murphy, Liberal MPP for St. George-St. David riding, introduced a private member's bill in June 1993 that would prohibit all discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Murphy, whose riding includes the gay community of Church and Wellsley Streets in Toronto, is working to fulfil a campaign promise made when elected in a byelection in April 1993.

Bill 45, if approved by the legislature, would amend the Human Rights Code with respect to sexual orientation. The bill deletes the words "of opposite sex" from the definition of "marital status" in the Human Rights Code.

The bill adds sexual orientation to the list of prohibited grounds of harassment in subsections 2(2) and 5(2) of the Human Rights Code.

Murphy says the bill is "not a revolution, but evolution." He compares the fight for gay equality to the fight for female equality. "Progress is being made slowly," Murphy says. "Look how long women fought for their voice in society."

Peter Kormos, Welland-Thorold MPP, says Bill 45 is "innocuous," but it "got the ball rolling."

Kyle Rae, an openly gay councillor for Ward 6 in Toronto, says "I call Bill 45 Murphy's Law because it doesn't do anything."

Rae, whose ward also covers Toronto's Church and Wellsley Streets, says Bill 45 "falls far short of changing the definition of spouse."

Rae says he believes as the gay community ages, "spousal recognition is going to be more of an issue." He also believes the laws for adoption need to be changed to allow homosexual couples the right to adopt.

"The more our community are able to express their desires and have a product of that desire to be open, it will make the education process of people easier," Rae says.

Bruce Keys, manager of the Beer Store in Toronto's gay community, says the definition of spouse needs to be changed to include same-sex couples.

Keys is involved with changing the Brewer's Retail union's definition of spouse and benefits for same-sex couples. Keys lost his partner to AIDS a year ago so these issues are "close to (his) heart."

"I don't see why same-sex couples can't have the same rights and benefits as heterosexual couples," Keys says.

Keys says there might someday be a gay positive society, but it won't be in his lifetime. "The fight for gay rights has only just begun," Keys says. "We have a lot of marching ahead of us."

Keys admits he hasn't fully studied Bill 45, but says he would support any bill that provides same-sex couples with the same rights as heterosexual couples.

Murphy says one day "we'll be an accepting society through education."

Murphy says part of this education are celebrities like k.d. Lang, Scott Thompson, and Melissa Etheridge coming out with their homosexuality.

"I think it's great that celebrities like Scott Thompson and k.d. Lang have come forward," Murphy says, "It makes it easier on gay people when they see one of their own."

In the future, Murphy says he will continue to support any bills that support gay rights. One of those bills could be Ontario Attorney General Marion Boyd's same-sex proposition. "I will do whatever I can to help the gay and lesbian community," Murphy says.

Ontario Premier Bob Rae said his government is currently looking at ways to end discrimination against gays and lesbians. "I do not support discrimination against gays and lesbians or anyone else."

Kyle Rae is not as optimistic though. He sees the media, in particular the Toronto Sun, and the Roman Catholic Church as two of the gay and lesbian community's biggest enemies.

"The press wants to see us as perverts, exotic, as perverse, as theatrical, as silly queens," Rae says. He adds, though, there is light on the horizon with such openly gay reporters as the Toronto Star's Bruce DeMara.

Rae is upset with Pope John Paul II's visit to East Africa earlier this year. "They're dying by the thousands (of AIDS), and he spoke to people and told them they shouldn't use condoms," Rae says.

"If there is anyone whose travel privileges should be restricted, it's the Pope's," Rae says. "He should not be able to leave Rome. He is killing people."

Asked if he thinks there'll ever be a gay positive society, Rae said, "I don't think so."

"It's now unacceptable to be sexist, to be racist, but it is still quite acceptable to beat up gays, to deny them employment, to deny them equality," Rae says.

'If there is anyone whose travel privileges should be restricted, it's the Pope's' Kyle Rae

Single dads struggle with more than studies

By SUE NOBLE
Staff Writer

Single dads attending Niagara College struggle with more than studies.

Dan Lees, Paul Hardy and Mark Brouwer are single dads who attend full-time classes while trying to maintain a balanced home life.

Juggling school, work and family life is the daily routine for 34-year-old Dan Lees of Welland.

A first-year College Social Service program student, Lees is a full-time student, father and provider for his four-year-old son Nathan.

When his wife died three years ago, he was left with a 14-month-old son to raise.

Lees said the most difficult part was helping Nathan develop fine motor skills. "He's a warm, affectionate child," said Lees, "but when my wife died, I was too busy with laundry and household chores to take time for more than Nathan's basic needs of feeding, changing and cleaning.

"I didn't know anything about helping my son develop his social skills and as a result of the shock of losing his mom, Nathan was very slow to speak," said Lees.

Nathan has been helped by a speech therapist from the college's Special Needs department. He converses with the other four year olds in the Niagara day care, Lees said.

Lees is a certified optical lab technician and a welder fitter. He said he was working in 1991, when he was diagnosed with cancer.

Following surgery, months of recovery and with a son to raise, Lees said it was time to re-examine his life choices.

He decided to work in the social services field because he had seen a lot of neglect and abuse as a child and vowed to raise his son in a healthier environment.

Dan Lees' son Nathan sits quietly at Niagara day-care centre.
Photo by Sue Noble

Lees applied to Niagara College in 1992, completing two terms of General College. In May 1993, Lees said he was one of about 900 applicants accepted into the Social Service program.

"It makes me mad when I hear students complaining about their workload." He said, they want everything laid out for them, they're living at home with mom and dad, and have all kinds of time to get their assignments done.

"Being a single dad, maintaining decent grades and, as of two weeks ago, working for the Port Youth Home for female young offenders in Port Colborne, leaves me with very little time or sympathy for complainers," he said.

Lees said his goal is to graduate, marry his girlfriend and move to Northern Ontario, where he can hunt, fish and raise his son in a clean, healthy and stable environment. He said as there is a demand for social workers, his chance of employment looks encouraging.

Paul Hardy, 22, of Welland, said he played in a band and worked at CHOW radio station for three years, before deciding to come to Niagara College for the Journalism-Print program.

Hardy said when he took on the responsibility in 1991, of being "The dad" to his girlfriend Tammy's six-month-old son Randy, "I realized it was time to give up the foolish life and concentrate on the future."

Most difficult is trying to keep up with school work, while giving Randy the attention he needs and wants, Hardy said. Randy wants to play as soon as Hardy gets in the door at night.

"It's usually 8 p.m., when Randy goes to bed, before I can get to my school work and by then I'm starting to get tired," said Hardy. He's up until after 1 a.m. doing homework.

"Life during the week is usually organized and routine because Tammy works days, mornings and afternoons so our day begins at 7 a.m. and seems to be non-stop," Hardy said.

"It's real heartbreaking at bedtime, when Randy asks me if I'm going to be there in the morning. I have to tell him no, because I'm usually on my way to school by the time he gets up," said Hardy.

"The weekends are devoted to family time, at least we try to spend more time together," Hardy said.

Randy is starting pre-kindergarten at St. Joseph's School in Welland this September, Hardy said; the interaction with other children will be good for him.

Hardy said once he graduates, gets a decent job with financial security, he plans to marry.

Mark Brouwer, 23, of St. Catharines, a first-year Journalism-Print program student, is the single father to his one-year-old son, Christian David Seamus.

"The most difficult part about being a single dad is that I can't get enough visitation time with Christian, not to mention enforcing the times the courts say I'm supposed to have," he said.

Brouwer said increased stress because of this situation and dealing with lawyers takes away valuable time from his studies and other school work.

"I've tried to make all of my appointments around my school schedule. Unfortunately, the lawyer's hours conflict with some of my classes," he said.

Brouwer said he is resourceful enough to take care of his son on a full-time basis and only wishes he had more experience at it. He added, he is working towards an agreement that would give him weekly visits and some holidays.

"My girlfriend, Pam Fowler, helps me maintain my control and perspective, when dealing with the problems of my son," said Brouwer.

"If I had the money, I would go to a good art school, but even an artist must have an occupation or starve. So, until then, I'll freelance for whomever will hire me," said Brouwer.

'It makes me mad when I hear students complaining about their workload' Dan Lees

SPORTS

Goodbye men's hockey. Hello women's B-ball

By TONY DI MARCO
Staff Writer

For the first time in 26 years, there will be no men's hockey team at Niagara College. Instead, beginning next school year, Niagara will introduce women's basketball and women's indoor soccer.

The men's hockey program has had many successful seasons in the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) and the International College Hockey League (ICHL). The team recently won a silver medal in the OCAA.

"It's time to make some changes," said Peter Rylander, Niagara's co-ordinator of athletic programs, "although cost was the major reason."

"Our hockey program costs about $38,000 a year," said Carol Boettcher, college vice-president of student life and human resources. "There's been more pressure by women for women's sports teams . . . We want to provide women an equal amount of opportunities as men to play intercollegiate sports."

"Our hockey program is our most expensive athletic program," said Rylander. "In reality, the hockey program costs around $32,000 to $33,000 a year, and costs keep rising every year."

The total cost referred to by Boettcher included the cost of hiring a new coach. A new coach would cost about $5,000 because the college would have to hire "an outsider" (someone who isn't a Niagara College faculty member), said Rylander.

Many other colleges have already discontinued their hockey programs; eight colleges in Ontario still have hockey teams and only Ontario and Alberta have championship competitions.

However, hockey players at Niagara can still play in organized leagues throughout the area, such as junior B or C.

As well, the college will continue to rent ice time for intramural hockey games.

"Right now, the only sport available to females is volleyball," said Rylander.

'It's time to make some changes,' said Rylander

"There were many questions from females asking about teams," he said, adding "women make up 55 per cent of the college enrolment."

The college introduced a Recreation Leadership program in January. Curriculum in the program includes the history of recreation, anatomy and physiology.

Fred Bassi, who recently retired from coaching the men's hockey team after 24 years, was given an opportunity by Rylander to express his opinions in the decision to cancel the team.

"Obviously, I was for the hockey program. I would've liked to see it continue," said Bassi. "However, a decision has been made and you have to live with it."

A women's basketball program will cost the school between $15,000 to $17,000 annually, said Rylander, adding an indoor soccer team has almost no expense.

The college plans to hire a part-time therapist to work with all the athletic teams. "Hopefully, we can hire a student," said Rylander.

Additional funds will be spent to improve already existing sport teams, he said.

Rob Lemaitre, a member of this year's men's hockey team, leads a group including the hockey team's assistant coach Jim Beattie, hockey teammates and a teacher, to meet with Niagara College president John Saso on Monday, April 25 at 2:30 p.m. to discuss the possible reinstatement of the team for the 1994-95 season.

Lemaitre initiated a petition at the college hoping that a show of support from the students in favor of keeping the hockey team will change Rylander's decision. Lemaitre says he's counted around 525 signatures on the petitions thus far.

Lemaitre says he's "optimistic" about his chances to reverse the decision.

But, Rylander said, his decision to discontinue the men's hockey team is "definite" in his mind.

"The problem with a petition," says Rylander, "is that you never get the other side of the story."

Tough decision to axe hockey

By WILLY NOILES
Staff Writer

The decision to cancel the men's hockey program was not an easy one, Carol Boettcher, vice-president, student life and human resources, told a Niagara College Board of Governors meeting on April 14.

She said factors contributing to the decision included the cost of running the program, and a shift in student population to a ratio of 60 per cent female and 40 per cent male.

The money saved can be used for women's sports teams, which next year is expected to include basketball and indoor soccer.

Athletic programs are funded by the students.

There is no connection between hockey coach Fred Bassi's recent retirement and the cancellation of the hockey team, Boettcher emphasized to the Board of Governors.

She said discussions between herself and Peter Rylander, Niagara's co-ordinator of athletic programs, have been going on for about a year.

"It was a wise decision," Niagara College President John Saso told the Board of Governors.

He said he would be meeting with some students to see if any alternatives are available concerning the hockey team. A petition has been started to have the men's hockey program reinstated.

Boettcher also asked the board to recognize hockey coach Fred Bassi's 24-year coaching career at the college.

Coach is 'optimistic'

By SHELLEY HOLDEN
Staff Writer

After two years of discussion, Niagara College has added a women's basketball team to its sports program.

Not since the season of 1986-87 has Niagara College had a women's basketball team.

Many people are excited about the restart of this program, particularly Todd Stevens, the head coach of the women's basketball team. "I'm very optimistic for running a high-calibre program," he said.

Stevens coached the men's basketball team at Niagara from 1991-94. He said he switched to coaching the women's basketball team because he's "much more comfortable coaching women" and has a more extensive background in women's basketball. Stevens has been coaching basketball for 14 years, which includes levels at elementary school, high school and travel basketball.

Stevens said he is hoping the women's basketball team will be allowed in the varsity league. As of right now, the team doesn't know where it stands at the college level. The Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) must have a meeting to decide if the women's basketball team should be allowed in the varsity league or in the exhibition league.

Stevens has many plans for the basketball team. "I'd like to build the program around aggressiveness, quickness and constant pressure. I want to be able to dictate the tempo and not have it dictated to us by using a run and gun style."

Stevens has been working with 12 girls for about a month. He is "ecstatic about the effort being put out by the women" on a voluntary basis.

Shelley Doncaster, 22, a first-year Law and Security Administration program student, is one of the girls who has been out practising.

"I'm really looking forward to there being a women's team. In the past month at practices, it seems like there's a lot of interest and definitely a lot of potential," said Doncaster.

Jen Crosby, 21, a first-year Business Administration program student, is also looking forward to playing next year. "Hopefully, OCAA believes we're strong enough to play varsity ball," she said.

Toronto NBA team down to top 10 names

By DARRYL SMART
Staff Writer

After looking through 189 possible names, there are 10 finalists.

That is what went through the mind of Toronto's National Basketball Association's (NBA) franchise owner John Bitove Jr. The franchise revealed its 10 finalists for the team's name on April 11.

The names chosen by a celebrity panel were the Beavers, T-Rex, Hoggs, Scorpions, Raptors, Terriers, Dragons, Bobcats, Tarantulas and Grizzlies. The celebrity panel included hockey's Wayne Gretzky, baseball's Roberto Alomar, former Ontario lieutenant-governor Lincoln Alexander, and Olympic competitors Josee Chouinard and Myriam Bedard.

The 10 names were chosen based on having a catchy name and being able to have an effective mascott.

From the top three names selected by the youngsters, a final decision will be made by the franchise and NBA Properties Ltd. The final name with the logo will be announced during the NBA playoffs, which start April 28.

Niagara College's women's basketball finally gets the green light
Photo By Jason Graham

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Basketball coach ready for first season

By SHELLEY HOLDEN
Staff Writer

There's a new coach for the Niagara College men's basketball team, but his face is definitely not a new one.

Randy Conlon is a graduate of Niagara College, where he played on the men's basketball team in 1986-87. Conlon has a lot of previous experience in coaching sports, especially basketball, but not at the college level.

"I am looking forward to the challenge of coaching at this level," he said. "A lot of people don't realize the quality of community college basketball."

At present, Conlon works at Niagara as a media/liaison officer. He also helped co-coach the Niagara College men's touch football team that won an Ontario College Athletic Association gold medal this season.

"I love to coach, but I also feel you have to be confident in what you know and that's why I took this job," he said.

Conlon is working closely with Ken Murray, the men's basketball coach at Brock University. They would like to help students not ready for university in academics, but who want to play basketball.

"In cases where a university level player may not be ready academically for university, a one-, two- or three-year college program may be ideal for that person. The student will still be playing basketball and could move on to Brock after graduating from Niagara," said Conlon.

Conlon said he is excited about coaching the men's basketball team, but it's a matter of getting students to commit to the work. Last year, the men finished fourth in their division and lost in the first round of playoffs. This year, Conlon said he would like to play 30 games and his goal is to have a record of 20 wins and 10 loses.

Frank Keltos, 23, will be returning next year for his third season on the basketball team.

"Conlon is very ambitious and optimistic with a lot of good ideas. He's giving the team a fresh start too, hopefully, a successful year and for years to come," said Keltos.

Jamie Paris, 18, has been practising and hopes to attend Niagara next year in the Law and Security Administration program.

"Randy is a great guy who has done a great job recruiting. I'm quite excited about next year and, hopefully, I can get the chance to play with the team," said Paris.

With two returning starters, Conlon has a lot to work with. "To get 12 people to gel into one unit is an extremely hard task to perform," he said.

Niagara College
KNIGHTS

Coach Randy Conlon (left) talks to a potential player for the men's basketball team at Niagara College.
Photo by Shelley Holden

Hayes ready for CFL

By DAVE CRANE
Staff Writer

While most students are beginning to look forward to a summer away from the pressures of school, the pressure will just be heating up for Niagara College's Jason Hayes.

Hayes, 23, a first-year Recreation Leadership program student, has recently signed a professional football contract with the expansion franchise Shreveport Pirates of the Canadian Football League (CFL). He will be heading off to Shreveport, La., for his first professional training camp on May 15.

Hayes, a native of Hamilton, played for the Canadian Junior Football League's (CJFL) champion Hamilton Hurricanes last year. The six-foot-four, 225-pound quarterback racked up some impressive statistics last season, including a 60 per cent completion rate, 2,576 total passing yards and 32 touchdowns against only 11 interceptions. He was also voted as the CJFL's Outstanding Junior Offensive Player.

While most CFL teams overlooked Hayes during the Canadian draft, his accomplishments did not go unnoticed by the American franchise from Shreveport. There are four American-based teams (Baltimore, Las Vegas, Sacramento and Shreveport) in the CFL, but these teams are not allowed to draft from the Canadian prospects under league rules. Being "forgotten" by the Canadian teams, Hayes was quickly contacted by the group from Shreveport.

Shreveport's franchise is run by the Gleiberman brothers, last year's Ottawa Rough Rider owners. The Gleiberman's left Ottawa after receiving criticism from fans and media for an unimpressive season.

"It really wasn't much of a surprise being picked up by Shreveport," says Hayes. "I talked with Ottawa regularly last season about my future in the CFL."

However, the controversy surrounding the Gleiberman's past doesn't seem to bother Hayes.

"Yeah, I've heard some bad things through the media (about Ottawa and the Gleibermans), but I feel Shreveport will be a healthy franchise."

In Shreveport, Hayes will be reunited with coaches George Brancato (last year's Ottawa head coach) and J.I. Albrect. Hayes played for these men two years ago at the University of Cape Breton. The football program was dropped because of lack of funding, so Hayes returned home to Hamilton.

Hayes is excited to be given the opportunity by Shreveport.

"I am going to camp with a bit of an advantage," he says. "I'll get a good look and they (Brancato and Albrect) already have a good idea of what I can do."

Hayes's main competition at camp will come from two seasoned quarterbacks. Terrance Jones who played for Ottawa last season and brings seven years of CFL experience to Shreveport. John Forcade, 28, played for the New Orlean's Saints of the NFL last year.

Hayes would love to "crack the lineup," but realistically is concentrating on making the practice roster.

"Just getting on the practice roster will assure me of a salary," he says smiling.

Hayes is the first Canadian to sign with an American team and because Shreveport is playing in the Eastern Division with Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa, football fans may be hearing his name a lot in the future.

New Playoff format for NHL

Eastern Conference

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- BOSTON
- MONTREAL
- NEW JERSEY
- BUFFALO
- PITTSBURGH
- WASHINGTON

Western Conference

- DETROIT
- SAN JOSE
- DALLAS
- ST. LOUIS
- TORONTO
- CHICAGO
- CALGARY
- VANCOUVER

In round two the four first round survivors will be re-ranked. #1 vs. #4 and #2 vs. #3.

Conference final home ice is awarded to the team with more regular season points or if the team is a division winner.

Stanley Cup home ice advantage goes to the team with most regular season points.

created by Darryl Smart

ENTERTAINMENT

Gandharvas rocks

By ERIC SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

Gandharvas is a Hindi word meaning "celestial musicians," but could easily be translated as "diverse and talented musicians."

Former Droogs members Brian Ward, 22, Tim McDonald, 23, Paul Jago and Jud Ruhl, both 21, and Spitbaby alumnus Eric Howden, 22, have created an album that is aurally exhilarating to the listener and maddeningly frustrating to the pretentious, thesaurus-toting reviewer.

With A Soap Bubble and Inertia, their debut recording for the Toronto-based Watch Records, The Gandharvas swing from Jane's Addiction to Bjork to worldbeat, while foraying into a dynamic comparable to the Rheostatics. However, the London, Ont.-based band remains utterly unique — drawing parallels is like pulling teeth. The most frequent comparisons are with Porno for Pyros and the aforementioned Jane's Addiction, primarily due to the upper register of singer/lyricist Jagos voice. Jago, however, possesses a range and fullness in his vocals that ol' Perry What's-His-Name can never aspire to, and he deserves a place with the best singers in rock.

The album defies categorization. Even the band members are loathe to describe their sound, and "I don't know" was the response given by each. Jago has dubbed the music "erotipop," although he has no definition for the word.

The album, deftly produced by Dan Brodbeck, is astonishingly good. From the soft, lilting opening of the deceptively upbeat The First Day of Spring, to the insistent, teeth-clenched pop of Coffee song, the hauntingly atmospheric carousel ride of Shadow to the ominous, East Indian glossolalia of Soap Bubble meets Inertia, The Gandharvas have prepared an auditory feast to satisfy virtually any palette.

The Gandharvas swing from Jane's Addiction to Bjork

For fans of the truly bizarre, Elevator Bugs is like the kind of dream that wakes you up feeling disturbed and confused without quite scaring you. The album's final track, Circus song, conjures images of a circus lumbering towards consciousness from a thorazine stupor.

A Soap Bubble and Inertia possesses a depth that is both unexpected and stunning for a debut, reflecting a band that has grown into its sound. You must have it. It's greatness transcends mere words, and in case you're wondering, the band is fantastic live.

McLachlan captivates crowd

By DAWN SWAYZE
Staff Writer

Sarah McLachlan had a full house at Convocation Hall "Fumbling towards ecstasy."

The hallowed grounds of University of Toronto was blessed with the heavenly voice of McLachlan, for a four-day stretch between April 14 -17. She was received by overwhelming applause, and expectation by a vast group of people. The majority of the crowd was young adults, however children were also in attendance at the all ages show.

McLachlan and her six-member band are on tour promoting the latest album - Fumbling Towards Ecstasy. As well as the songs from the promotional album, McLachlan performed songs from her other two albums Touch and Solace.

The music was an added bonus to the concert. McLachlin's voice carried well throughout the hall. In spite of a tenuous performance two days prior, McLachlin's voice was crisp and clean.

Those in attendance thanked McLachlan by giving her and her band a double standing ovation

The audience of 1,500 was captivated by the enthusiasm and charm McLachlan showed. Her free-spirit poured in and around those in attendance. Her child-like experimentation with the music improved the concert.

The lit back-drop and simple light show went well with the remarkable sound which was meant to be the major attraction.

Those in attendance thanked McLachlan by giving her and her band a double standing ovation. McLachlan then followed with a double encore. Her performance was an improvement on the album, and no one was disappointed.

Crash! Boom! Bang!

By SHELLY HOLDEN
Staff Writer

Roxette is back with their fifth album, *Crash! Boom! Bang!* Once again their music is fun and enjoyable.

Marie Fredriksson and Per Gessle of Roxette have produced an album with funky tunes and lovely ballads.

Fredriksson has a powerful voice which makes listeners want to get up and start bustin-a-move or get close to that special person.

"We're still here and I am really happy with the album," said Fredriksson in a recent press release. "I've got a feeling that our audience is still out there somewhere, although, I don't expect us to repeat old glories. You can't go on selling 10-million records every time you release something."

Well, don't sell yourself short yet, Roxette.

If you think Roxette's new album is really pop rock music, you're mistaken. My roommate, who is a hard rock music fan, was caught tapping his feet to the lyrics. This album can do wonders!

'I've got a feeling our audience is still out there somewhere,' - Fredriksson

By listening to *Fireworks* or the title song *Crash! Boom! Bang!* you might want to recommend this album to your friends. Either that or keep this new find all to yourself!

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This is my last cigarette?!

By HEATH ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Overpowering desires wake you in the night. You have to have one, just one drag. Your dreams are filled with smoke and you're constantly inhaling faster, faster until you can barely breathe, choking you until you awaken in a sweat.

The addiction of cigarettes is much greater than many people understand. Some non smokers say that it is easy to quit, all you have to do is want to bad enough. Many former smokers say that it is not that easy.

Joe Smith, not his real name, had a problem two years ago. He was addicted not only to cigarettes but to several other banned substances.

"I was way out of control and realized I needed to do something quick," he said. A lot of Smith's friends were doing the same thing and were also getting in over their heads. Smith decided to make the change and quit doing it all.

Photo by Chris Twose

"I just quit it all cold turkey, and turned to lifting weights," said Smith. "I just started pumping and pumping, working the chest and stuff, it was great." Smith said the habit of always putting a smoke in his mouth was the hardest to stop, but he eventually had broken the cycle.

Smith remembers a story one night after he quit. "I woke up in a cold sweat, I had been dreaming about having a cigarette and I remembered that I was sleeping but I couldn't wake up."

"It was really scary, my dreams where all screwed up, I felt like I was being burned alive," he said.

Medical research shows smoking is not just a habit, it is a serious addiction which many people need medical help to overcome.

There are different ways to quit smoking. One of the most recent methods is called the 'patch,' a medical device that contains nicotine and releases it into the blood stream to overcome the withdrawal symtoms. Many people who have used the patch have found it to be effective, but some have said the method that doesn't do anything for the withdrawal.

How can a person overcome the devastating effects of an addiction?

"It took everything that I had to overcome cigarettes, I wish anyone who is going to try to quit the best of luck," Smith said.

Senior Citizen Drivers

By GORDON HILL
Staff Writer

Senior citizens of Ontario are required by law to relinquish their driver's licence at 80 years of age if they cannot pass the Ontario driving examination.

If 70-year-old drivers are involved in an accident, they must pass a driver's exam every new year.

I recently had the experience of having to help my aging father deal with this situation. However, my father no longer had the faculties to continue driving, and I was relieved he would no longer be on the road.

Like many drivers at college, I find myself late for class and rushing to school, getting annoyed when drivers who are overcautious and slow to react.

Many times, more often than not, I find that senior citizen drivers are the cause of my frustration.

Having shared the humiliating experience of my father's dilemma, I find myself wrestling with the thought that — should I be so lucky to reach the golden age — being a driver causing problems for other drivers.

The point of this column is that we should have more consideration for senior citizens on the road — because as sure as the sun rises, we, too, will grow old we hope with grace and dignity.

Shorthand Contest winners

Winners of the 15th annual Rosemary Harris-Lowe Shorthand Contest were announced Monday. Left is Stacey Nichols, third place winner of $25; Julie Majkut, second place winner of $50; shorthand instructor Toni Coppola; Krista Lynch, first place winner of $100, and an engraved pen and keychain. This is the contest's last year for the Office Administration-Executive students.

Photo by Willy Noiles

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'I love this work,' Labonte

By SEAN RHOADS
Staff Writer

On July 1, 1995, Canada will celebrate another year of confederation. Niagara College will also celebrate nine years of determination and success by one of its staff in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC).

Trish Labonte, the head librarian at Niagara College's Welland campus LRC, has many reasons to celebrate.

A Pellam, Ont., native, Labonte received her bachelor of science degree at Brock University in Thorold, before heading to the University of British Columbia (UBC) to complete her master of science degree.

"Living in residence at (UBC) was wonderful," she said. "(The campus) was just like a little town on the coast, everything was so beautiful."

Labonte moved back to the Niagara Region with her husband, Michael, in 1985 and applied for a job at Niagara College. She had spotted the ad in the local paper for a position in the Welland campus library. She got the job and since being hired, Labonte has helped bring about many changes in the LRC. Among them are a new resource centre at the Hospitality and Tourism campus in Niagara Falls and a modified video service at the Welland campus.

"The new LRC at the Hospitality and Tourism campus is something I'm very proud of," Labonte said. "It's small, yet very focused on the curriculum of the programs offered there."

Although Labonte has had some successes at the college, she is quick to point out nothing would have been accomplished without "an amazing staff."

Labonte said her staff deserves much of the credit for improving the college's library centres.

"The people I work with have been wonderful ever since I started here," she said. "It's not only the staff in the library, but also the people in the administration."

In the fall term of this year, Labonte was offered a position to teach the GENS 109 course called Master Student. She accepted the offer and "absolutely loved it." She said she "enjoyed teaching class immensely" but would not be able to continue next year because of an increasing workload.

Next year, with plans for a new LRC and a new automated information system, Labonte will be busy, but also "very excited."

"I love this work," said Labonte. "Because of my interest in it and the people I work with, I can definitely say the information field is right for me."

Grunge icon dead

By PAUL HARDY
Staff Writer

The entertainment world is mourning the loss of yet another young star.

Kurt Cobain, lead singer and guitarist for the hugely successful alternative-grunge band Nirvana, was found dead, an apparent suicid in his Seattle home two weeks ago.

He leaves behind a wife, Courtney Love, lead singer of the band Hole, a two-year-old daughter and a musical legacy.

Cobain, 27, who wrote most of the music and lyrics for Nirvana, pioneered the grunge sound and opened the doors for the rest of the grunge scene in Seattle. His music personified the feelings of anger and alienation experienced by the much-talked about Generation X.

It was no secret that the "angry young man" had always experienced feelings of personal angst. It was those feelings that seemed to appeal to today's cynical youth.

Cobain had recently been recovering from an alcohol and drug-induced coma suffered earlier in the year. Reports say Cobain had a previous brush with suicide, when he and Love lost custody of their daughter, amid rumors Love was addicted to heroin.

The couple regained custody of their daughter, and all indications were Cobain had overcome his troubles and was, for the first time in his life, experiencing happiness.

News of the suicide took much of the entertainment industry by surprise, and stations such as 97.7 HTZ FM, a St. Catharines radio station, and television's MuchMusic devoted much of their airtime on the weekend to covering Cobain's death.

In the end, Cobain succumbed to the ultimate expression of his inner-turmoil — the same inner-turmoil that brought him fame and fortune.

A better understanding of AIDS

By CHRISTINE RAWCLIFFE
Staff Writer

While watching the latest Tom Hanks' flick, Philadelphia, I became enraged over something I never thought I cared much about — gay rights.

The movie is about a man who contracts Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) from his male partner and ends up being fired from his job because his employers become aware that he is HIV positive. The majority of the movie takes place in a courtroom where Hanks' character is suing his company for wrongful dismissal.

In watching the movie, I became aware of the prejudice that not only gay people face, but those with AIDS. People who suffer from AIDS not only have to deal with their declining immune system and continual illnesses, but they also have to deal with the ignorance and fear

of the general public.

Much like AIDS sufferers, the majority of gay people in our society are treated with hatred and disrespect. I believe that what is done behind closed doors is nobody's business except for the parties involved. It is no more acceptable for a heterosexual couple to display their affection for each other in public than it is for a same-sex couple.

I was shocked to see how degraded male AIDS victims are made to feel. In the movie, Hanks' character, Andrew Banks, fights for his life and his rights as a gay male in today's society.

Overall, I am not completely familiar with the AIDS disease and what those with AIDS cope with, but I do know that the discrimination they put up with from others is unnecessary and unacceptable. Much like what gay men cope with when they choose to be honest about their sexuality.

In this day and age, one would think that something as minor as a sexual preference would not cause as much destruction as it has. What people do in their own homes, in their own bedrooms, is nobody's business, and no one has the right to judge them.

$ for AIDS victim

By SUE NOBLE
Staff Writer

Two Early Childhood Education program students Lisa Charette, 20, of Welland and Arlene Robinson, 24, of Hamilton are trying to raise money and awareness for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) victim Bobby Dadd, 16, of Niagara Falls.

"Bobby was attending school in Toronto. When his mother informed the school of Bobby's condition they (staff and students) made his life a living hell," said Charette.

According to Bobby's mother, said Robinson, he had contracted HIV at the age of three, as a result of a blood transfusion.

"Bobby came to Niagara in March 1994 seeking financial assistance to help with the cost of printing AIDS awareness pamphlets. He said his medical expenses run at about $700 a month," said Charette.

Charette and Robinson said they are trying to raise $200 by today.

"When Bobby was here in March he said he really liked Niagara and felt very comfortable because of the physically challenge students he saw, while he was here. He didn't feel like a stranger and people didn't look at him differently," said Robinson.

The student asked Sharon Yacyshyn, 48, from the college bookstore to donate a Niagara College sweatshirt. Yacyshyn said she would be happy to. "Bobby will be thrilled," said Charette.

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Impaired drivers are a year round risk

By Heather D. Hodgson
Law and Security Administration
Special to Niagara News

As the warming breezes lit through the evening, filling our thoughts with visions of beach parties, long sun-soaked days of boating, lounging by the lake etc., police and other emergency personnel brace themselves for the annual highway and boating carnage that mars every long weekend.

Impaired drivers are a year round risk. Alcohol related crashes increase on weekends between the later evening hours and about 3 a.m. to 4 a.m. Summer-long weekends have the distinction of reporting the annual carnage high for the roadways and waterways.

Add to the annual cottage trek, field parties, graduation parties, weddings and other festivities where excessive use of alcohol is condoned and you have the makings of tragedy.

Alcohol is a depressant. It is a toxic substance that enters your bloodstream from the time it enters your mouth. Most of the alcohol is absorbed through the large intestine walls. It takes the average, health body about 1 1/4 hours to process each standard sized alcoholic beverage out of your system.

Using this information it is easy to calculate that if you have six beers or six five-ounce glasses of wine or six standard sized portions of liquor, it would take about 7 1/2 hours for the alcohol to be processed from your blood stream. Some researchers believe that the byproduct produced by the liver to break down the alcohol is just as dangerous to your bodily functions as the original alcohol.

Alcohol has anaesthetic effects on your brain. First, your inhibitations fade along with your judgment and ability to reason. As the alcohol courses through your veins, numbing your brain, other functions deteriorate as well: speech slurs, eye-hand co-ordination slows, reaction time slows, balance becomes unsteady, night time vision is reduce, and, all the while, because your reasoning capabilities are affected, you don't even realize the effects.

In addition to highway and waterway carnage, there is another problem with increased alcohol consumption. Two people go on a date, or meet at a bar. As alcohol enters the bloodstreams, inhibitions drift away. The two people decide to go somewhere more private. Nature takes its course and the couple begins petting, leading to sexual intercourse.

The morning after brings reality sharply into focus. If precautions were not taken, there is a risk of life threatening infectious disease. Under the influence of alcohol, chances of thinking of precaution were greatly reduced. If you are female, another possibility is pregnancy.

Add to this scenario the reality of one partner coercing, or even forcing the other to have sex. Date rape is a slang term for a very real criminal offense: sexual assault. Spouses can also be charged and convicted of sexual assault on spouses. Alcoholic intoxication is not an excuse. In fact, recent legal changes make it easier to register a conviction for sexual assault if the victim was under the influence of alcohol.

So, BEFORE the summer sun caresses your skin and the coll beverage refreshes your throat, stop and think. Designated drivers and other measures can reduce the carnage on the roads and waterways. But, what about the other, more personal issues?

It is your life. Live long and prosper. But, stay alive long enough to enjoy it.

Pharmacy assistant program works well

By KAREN FREEMAN
Staff Writer

The first year of the Pharmacy Assistant program is working well, said Bobbie Gazzellone, co-ordinator of the program, a registered pharmacy assistant, and a graduate from Humber College.

When the program began in September,1993, there were 44 students, now there are 38, said Gazzellone. There are two intakes, one in September — ending June 3, and the other in October — ending June 24.

Gazzellone is the only full-time sessional teacher, hired for 10 months. All other teachers are part time pharmasists, pharmacy assistants, and teachers from different sections, such as English and ambulance emergency care, said Gazzellone.

Located on the fourth floor of the St. Catharines campus, the pharmacy lab is equipped with medication and intravenous bags to aid students' learning.

Gazzellone said the students are taught to memorize Latin abbreviations and be able to recognize forged perscriptions.

Some academic requirements for the program are sciences and a strong background in math, in order to calculate dosages and volumes, Gazzellone said.

It is recommended to students who have little or no background in science to take the Health Science Preparatory program or the College Success program.

She said depending on funding, the program may run in September or in January.

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SAC...WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU!?

Niagara student experiences life in Japan

By GORDANA PIRKER
Staff Writer

It takes about 14 hours to get to Japan by a DC-10, but when you arrive, you are sent forward in time but you also feel thrown back in time.

It was an opportunity of a lifetime, a chance to visit the Far East, a chance to absorb the Japanese culture. Before I left, I tried to practice on the simplist thing I could in Canada — the food.

I went to a local Japanese restaurant and tried the teas, sushi and the chopsticks, but little did I know I had only scratched the surface. I learned quickly that even the food I ate in Japan has a purpose other than satisfying your appetite.

The reason for my trip was to report on two local high school basketball teams from the Niagara Region who were participating in tournaments against the Japanese.

Although the purpose of the trip was mainly the basketball games, I had other plans I wanted to fulfil on this trip.

The image I had in my mind of Tokyo was not the same Tokyo I saw. My body was constantly brushing with crowds crossing the streets and my ears would fill quickly to the sounds of the Japanese language. I didn't realize how much of a culture shock I was experiencing until I got home.

I wanted to be part of everything that was going on in Japan, but being a blonde and five feet, nine inches, I just couldn't blend in. I found the Japanese to be interested in Canadians and our way of life. But I was careful not to reveal too much because some things could not be fully understood. For example, Japanese men were interested in various Canadian occupations and our cost of living. On the other hand, the women showed more interest in the women's movement and the role of the average Canadian woman.

Japanese women still fall under the rule of men. Although some women struggle for equality, most Japanese women struggle to be acknowledged.

Although the Japanese women show interest in changing their ways, it is a delicate matter — too difficult to go through any changes because of their culture.

Competition between the men and women does not exist. In fact, a simple class list at all school levels, is divided in two — boys first, then girls.

Aiko Endo, a 27-year-old English teacher, said Japanese women want to be equal with men, but are unsure on how to accomplish it.

"We are quiet, we are to be seen but not heard. I don't think some things are right. Things should be fair for all," said Endo.

Endo spent two years at Syracuse University in New York studying English. Even though she had a chance to be part of the North American culture, she found it too difficult to adapt.

"It was strange for me to walk around in my friends' apartments with my shoes on. The Japanese in me knew it was wrong," said Endo.

The Japanese are particular about removing their outside shoes and wearing other slippers in the home. Not to complicate things more, but when you go to the bathroom you once again put on a different pair of slippers.

I stayed at a homestay (billets) with a 56 -year-old English professor and his wife. A traditional Japanese home, which reminded me of a maze with all of its halls and rooms.

Japanese have no central heating in their homes and other buildings. One thing I can do now well is undress, shower and dress again all under five minutes.

The food and service is unbelievable. Though mainly fish is served, your appetite will be expanded, fish lover or not.

Art and decor are important to the Japanese. It represents presentation. From clothing stores, to how your plate is decorated for your meals, all are important to the Japanese.

They are strong in representing themselves through team effort. Although I found the Japanese can not make decisions independently as we do here. We have postions in our workforce that allow people to decide on various issues, depending on their position. The Japanese on the other hand, discuss and solve matters in group situations.

When I came back to Canada, I realized we are all in a rat race of our own. While in Japan, I saw and experienced the amount of work and social activities they share each day. We here try to fit everything in our crazy schedule. We have talk shows to visualize "how to," books and even motivational speakers to tell us how to motivate ourselves.

Meanwhile, the Japanese have it in breeded in them. To motivate themselves, to be leaders.

Although it was a short visit, I want to return again, hopefully for a longer period. Japan has peaked my curiosity and leaves me with many unanswered questions.

For example, will Japanese women make themselves heard among the men, or will the clash result in a major change in their culture?

Only time will tell.

Love and learning at Niagara

By SUE NOBLE
Staff Writer

Matt Cristelli, 23, of Niagara Falls, a second-year Electrical Technicians program student at Niagara College, started dating Alyson Golding, 24, of Fort Erie, a General Arts and Science program student, in November 1994.

Golding said they met in the After Hours Pub and became good friends. She said her five-year-old son R.J. liked Matt, and it wasn't until February 1993 that she agreed to go out with him.

"I really liked his smile and he was fun to be around," said Golding.

Cristelli laughed and said, "I was only after Alyson for her money. Then said "truthfully, I love her looks and she has a good head on her shoulders," he said.

Cristelli said he hopes to get an electrician's position after graduation.

"I don't plan too far in advance. After all, if I can't afford it, why get my hopes up too high," said Golding.

"Jason hit me like a bus," said Dawn Swayze, 20, of Welland, a student in the first-year Journalism-Print program.

Jason Graham 24, of Welland said he and Dawn met on the third day of school last September and although he didn't know why he was so attracted to her, he knew they were destined to be together.

"She was the most assertive woman I had ever met and that drew me in completely," he said.

They started dating after Graham's birthday on Oct. 1. "I had no expectations of a long-term relationship developing," said Swayze.

'Jason hit me like a bus' — Swayze

"His overwhelming presence in the classroom is what first attracted me," said Swayze.

Pam Fowler, 20, of St. Catharines, a General Art & Science student said Mark Brouwer, 23, of St. Catharines was introduced to her by Kim Fragomeni at After Hours.

"Pam was upset about something and I think I helped calm her down. Then we talked constantly on the phone for about a month and soon afterwards started dating.

"Our relationship is definitely serious, we're expecting our son at the end of July or first part of August," said Brouwer.

Fowler said her first impression of Brouwer was that he was "cute and too good for me." He was so kind and understanding that first day, he managed to calm me down in just a few minutes," said Fowler.

Their future plans, besides becoming parents and graduating, include art school for Brouwer and a Social Service degree for Fowler.

Chris Towes, 22, and Ronda Wood, 20, of Welland said they first met in September 1992 at Niagara.

"I liked his puppy-dog eyes and his humor," said Wood, a second year General Arts and Science student. She added "he would time himself when writing tests and say things like, 'I'll be back in five minutes.' Sure enough he would walk into After Hours five minutes later," she said.

"There are a myriad of things that first attracted me to Ronda, her eyes are the most amazing eyes and, of course, her cheerful personality," said Towes, a first-year Journalism-Print program student.

"We never really had a first date, he would just stop over to my house for a visit and our friendship grew. As of April 1, we're living in sin," said Woods.

Jail-N-Bail to be held in May

Niagara College's top dog is a "Ten Most Wanted" jailbird!

The Brock Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society will be holding a Jail-N-Bail May 11 and 12 at the Fairview Mall, St. Catharines as part of its annual fundraising drive.

The grand unveiling of St. Catharines' Ten Most Wanted jailbirds will be at noon Tuesday, May 3 at Red Hot Chili Pepper, on St. Paul Street in St. Catharines. Rumor has it Niagara College President John Saso will be wearing stripes. The public is welcome to attend the unmasking and enter a draw for Lina Linguinis' dinner for two.

Public viewing of St. Catharines' Ten Most Wanted jailbirds — and all others rounded up for the cause — phoning friends, business associates, enemies and Ontario Premier Bob Rae seeking money to meet their "bail", will be May 11 and 12 at Fairview Mall, St. Catharines from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you have anyone you'd like "arrested" to help in this fundraising effort, call the Arrest Hotline at 905-688-JAIL, (688-5245) from May 3 to May 12 to make arrangements.

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